



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 14

February 2015

Number 1

MAKE A PLEDGE & RECEIVE A GIFT

A WEBSITE REDESIGN FUNDRAISER

The Plasticville Collectors Association has been given a large donation of pieces that are too nice to relegate to "The Parts Bin". Many of these pieces came with their original boxes and some are very difficult to find.

The Executive Committee decided to separate the items into lots and create a photo listing of each lot. It was further decided to give each lot to the person pledging the largest donation for each lot as a gift for their donation. There are 56 lots of Plasticville O/S and HO, Littletown, Skyline, as well as others.

As the pledges are considered donations, the person pledging the greatest amount for each lot will also receive a receipt from the PCA that may be used for tax purposes along with their gift. All pledged funds will be used for redesign of the Plasticville Collectors Association website.

Winning lots will be sent via U.S. Postal Service, packed in "bullet proof" shipping boxes at the lowest possible rate unless otherwise requested. A single charge of \$5.00 for postage and packaging will be added to each winner's lot/s.

Pledges must be mailed to the address on the form on the last page of the listing. Email and phone pledges will not be accepted. Copies of the form will be accepted.

The fundraiser runs from February 15, 2015 through March 31, 2015.

A link to the listing of the lots is on the PCA website's home page as *Make a Donation & Receive a Gift*. That link will take you to the Members section of the website where you will have to enter your user name and password after again clicking on the *Make a Donation & Receive a Gift* link.

Printed copies of the lot listing may be requested by emailing the Secretary at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or sending a letter to the Secretary at the address on the front page of this newsletter. There is no charge for the first mailed copy of the list.

This is a win/win/win situation: You receive a nice plastic village piece and a receipt for tax purposes and your donation helps in the redesign of the PCA website.

UNIDENTIFIED BILLBOARD, CAN YOU HELP?

Secretary Niehaus received a request from the TCA Librarian for help in identifying an unknown billboard. The individual requesting information put an original Plasticville insert in the billboard. The billboard looks to be similar in size to the Plasticville version but has an extra detail. There is lattice under the frame. If you have any information on the manufacture or origins of this piece please email:

secretary@plasticvilleusa.org.



Figure: Mystery billboard with a Plasticville insert.

The Villager

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WWW.PLASTICVILLEUSA.ORG

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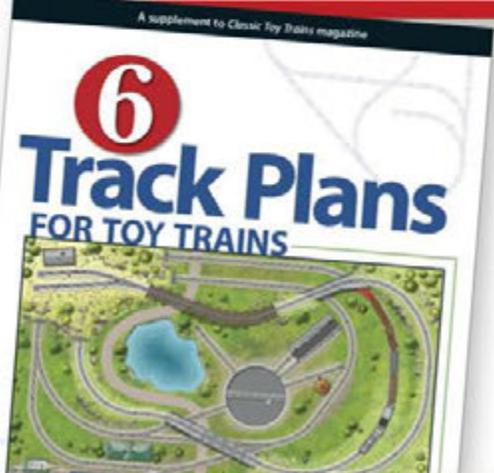
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



I will begin with my usual wish that all of our members made it thru the Holidays and had a Happy New Year! Possibly you may have been given a new Building or other train related item as a present this past Holiday season. If you received something that you believe that would be of interest please write a short article and maybe a picture or two for publication in *The Villager* on your gift?

My wife and my move continue at a snail's pace but at least it's moving. I finally got the layout all down and all the trains moved to the new house. We are going to let the movers take care of the Plasticville/etc. collection in the next month or so. Maybe then I can start straighten out the mess (grin)!

I did attend the Desert Division TCA Christmas train show in December and enjoyed seeing all the trains as well as quite a bit of Plasticville. Some of the prices were reasonable and some not so. But as it seems to happen a lot there was nothing that I could not live without.

This year I will not attend the New York TCA convention since retirement has put a crimp in any train related spending. However I do hope that many of our members in the North East get a chance to attend.

It continues to gratify me that our members continue to send in their articles, stories and pictures that make *The Villager* the great publication that it is. It is always with great interest that I await the next issue to see what new things I can learn. Hopefully our existing members continue to support our organization by sending in articles/photos etc. of interest to our members.

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

Best wishes to everyone for this new year and I hope everyone finds a great deal this spring as the Garage Sale season picks up to enhance their collection.

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

PCA President

Doug Gilliatt

VICE PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS



Okay, first column of the new year and I thought I'd try a different approach. My last four columns were advice on what you might plan on doing during the upcoming three months with real and model trains and/or Plasticville related activities.

How about if I write about what I enjoy about this hobby we share?

I still recall the time I met Joe Kutza (the founder of Plasticville Collectors Association) through a website he had built to discuss collecting, displaying and cataloging. Joe also had information on the origins of Plasticville, Littletown, Skyline, Marx, Ideal and other plastic village manufacturers. Putting a face to the words and voice on the other end of phone calls from this super knowledgeable guy on the other side of the country was a grand thrill. But better, it led to a great friendship with shared respect.

I remember the first time John Neihaus and I spoke on the phone, reviewing what he had done to incorporate PCA and get official IRS status as a 501c(3). I was impressed with this man's ability to devote energy non-stop in a myriad of directions.

Doug Gillette came across as calm wrapping around a different sort of high energy. He seemed to be all about making the PCA into a social club as well as a knowledge exchange.

Jim Dawes exudes the ability to find the common denominator to all parties searching for an answer.

I recall the folks I've met at train shows when they ask about my PV modules on our Los Angeles based S club portable layout.

(Side note: I promise more articles on the other six dioramas Cindy has built, maybe she'll finish the eighth and that will be a wrap.)

I still get off looking under a table at a swap meet and finding a part I need for half a buck to complete a rare item.

Or buying three like items at good prices to get one rare set up and selling the left over two for almost what I paid for the three.

I enjoy setting up a rarity to just enjoy seeing it on display.

I enjoy our 3 ½ year old grandson starting to recognize what he can do with his Flyer trains. Like load PV farm animals into the gondolas and hoppers. Okay, that's not quite the truth. The PV animals go into a blue Great Northern stock car. The gons and hoppers are filled with small dinosaurs from Toys R Us. Hey, he is only 3 ½, right?

I love the look on kids faces when they start checking out all the details Cindy has put into her farm dioramas. Or on an adult's face when they see the guy reading the paper in the outhouse with his pants around his ankles. Or the recognition when someone spots the synagogue that used to be a church, with the rabbi that used to be a minister.

I like that everyone I've ever met dealing or buying large amounts of Plasticville and other village buildings seem to have time to talk about the club.

I dig getting that note in my email four times a year telling me to download the latest *Villager* so I can spend a few hours soaking it up, cover to cover.

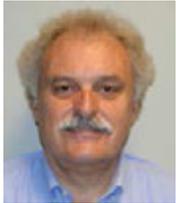
VICE PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS (CONTINUED)

I like that John has handed *The Villager* off to Matt. Good because a little less stress on John means he'll be around that much longer. Good for the PCA because we'll have a new (not better, just different) spin on the *Villager's* editing.

Reading the posts from the Yahoo! Group and answering occasionally is another knowledge share experience.

Hey, happy hunting at the swaps, antique shops and garage sales. Retrospect Fred out.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



It's a new year and there are some changes in communication of which you should be advised. As you are aware, we have a new editor of *The Villager*, Matthew Harvazinski. Matthew is now responsible for the content of our newsletter. This includes article submissions, *What Members Are Saying* comments, and classified ads. Please be sure to send him an email at villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org if you have an idea for a single article or for a continuing column. Any changes to your ads or new ads that you send by email should be sent to him at villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org. You may still send the hard copy ad forms to me at the address on the top of the form for now.

Please be certain to notify secretary@plasticvilleusa.org if you have a change of address or even a telephone number change. We have had nearly a dozen membership renewal notices returned because the time allowed by the Post Office to forward a letter had expired. Please help us keep your membership record current.

As your Treasurer I am pleased to note that along with membership renewals I received some donations. I wish to thank all those who made a monetary donation. Please let me know if you did not receive a receipt for your donation. All donations will be used to help defray the expense of the massive redesign of our website.

Speaking of website redesign: I have been able to see some of the work in progress and I believe all will be pleased with the totally

new look. It is hoped that we can announce availability of the redesigned website in our May edition of the newsletter.

I had a recent comment from a person who has requested items through The Parts Bin program. He asked, "Wouldn't it be cheaper to use the Post Office boxes?". The short answer is, "Yes". But, the boxes I am using are much more likely to withstand the rigors of transit than the USPS Priority Mail boxes. I also find that the average cost to ship packages using the sturdier boxes is actually cheaper than the least costly Priority Mail Flat Rate box even when factoring in the cost of the box. With that said though, I will ship parts in a Priority Mail Flat Rate box if you request me to do so when you send me your list of desired parts.

I recently looked at our PCA Facebook page and found that the number of "likes" seems to be under 200. We are now an Association of over 500 members. Why not visit the page and click the "Like" button to the right of the PCA logo?

I received news that Anthony Lewis member # 07-464 passed away on September 10, 2014. I also received news of two other members who have passed away. John C Alleger, member #13-808, passed away on October 4, 2014. Nicholas A Pascarella, member #08-529 passed away on December 27, 2014.

Last, but not least I wish to thank all who have saved the odd stamps I have used on various mailings. I believe I received close to 1/4 pound this year from you. Thanks again.

John L Niehaus, Secretary/Treasurer



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EDITOR'S COLUMN



Hello and welcome to my first attempt at steering *The Villager* ship. Based on the effort it took for me to put this together I think everyone owes John Niehaus a big thank you for handling the newsletter for the past thirteen years! If you have any comments or concerns regarding the newsletter please feel free to contact me at, villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org.

My first exposure to Plasticville was at the age of four when my Dad purchased a #1706 Suburban Station to add to our very small American Flyer track loop around the Christmas tree. Since then my dad and I have been actively collecting American Flyer Trains and Plasticville, it is a great activity for us and allows us to spend quality time together even though we are now living on opposite sides of the country!

Recently, I have been attempting to document a list of every variation and item of O/S Plasticville there is to collect. To date I have come up with about 760 different items to hunt for. The listing is pulled from many sources, eBay, guide books, and discussions with other collectors. What has been interesting about this process is you start to realize there are many hard to find items that you may not even realize. Most of us likely have a white and light blue Bermuda Ranch house, but do you have one in an #1812 box? That appears to be a very hard item to come across. Searching past sales on eBay I find only one 1812 listed compared to 58 RH-1's!

It is the large number of variations, oddities, and quirks about vintage Plasticville that makes it exciting to me. Unfortunately, most of this information is held by individuals and tends not to be common knowledge. Information is exchanged through transactions at train shows and can occasionally be found in an eBay listing. *The Villager* represents an excellent medium to exchange information and educate the community. If you happen to be knowledgeable about a particular item why not write up a short description to be published in *The Villager* so that others members can benefit from your knowledge? What you might think is trivial is likely unknown to many members. Articles do not have to be lengthy and I will be happy to assist in any way I can. Remember that the success of the newsletter depends your submissions!



Please welcome two new contributing editors, Don Huovinen who will be writing a limited series of articles on K-Line packaging and Ron Schlicht. Ron will be writing a new series of articles titled "Figuratively Speaking" where he will discuss making custom figures. You can find Don's first article on page 19 and Ron's on page 9.

Lastly, on behalf of all of *The Villager's* readers I would like to thank John Gottcent for 14 years of contributions! His final article appears on page 11, I know that his articles will be missed. I hope that you enjoy reading this edition and again please do not hesitate to let me know your thoughts.

Matt Harvazinski,
Newsletter Editor

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ALONG THE “HO” LINE

#2058/49-9708 Sears Assortment

By DOMINIC ST. JOHN

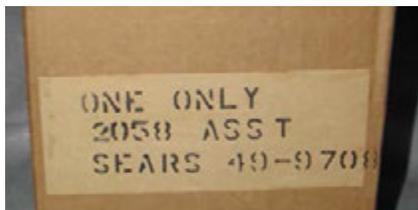


Hello everyone, this months' offering will be yet another eBay find. As the last box in the last Villager article, the #4498 HO Railroad Center, this one caught my eye while doing my usual Plasticville HO searching. I have never seen a box like this before. I've spent hours and hours over the many years looking at eBay listings and this is the first of its kind I've ever come across. The fact that it is marked with the Sears name made it all the more likely that it would be coming home to me once the listing ended.

My collection is pretty much exclusively made up of common Bachmann Plasticville HO kits and boxes. There are a couple of the uncataloged Target kits as well but those are still full of common kits with the outer kit box being the only item of interest for me. I've also seen a lot of the Lionel HO Plasticville kits and would love to own some, but, they always bring an almost foolish high price at a listings end so I just watch and wait to see what they close for. I can't justify spending what some are willing to pay for a Lionel Box when the kit inside is, at most times, are also quite common. This one, however, had me hooked and I was not going to not own it. So, I bookmarked this listing, watched and waited, and finally entered my bid. You know the rest! In the following I'll show you my latest addition to the collection.

What it seems I have recently added to my collection is a Sears' exclusive assortment with five Plasticville HO kits included. When looking at the included images, you'll see the outer box is undoubtedly a Bachmann box. On one side you'll find printed, the BACHMANN BROS. INC. logo with the 1400 E. Erie Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. address under an empty rectangular box. Inside that empty box are the words, order number, in the lower left corner. Above the box are the words, Ship To, with an arrow pointing down and to the empty box. On another side of the box is what looks to be a glued on paper label with the following stamped upon it.

**ONE ONLY
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SEARS 49-9708**



Inside the outer box were five Plasticville HO kits. The 2610 Freight Station, 2618 Ranch House, 2619 Switch Tower, 2620 Signal Bridge and finally a 2811 Railroad Work Car were all inside with a little room left over where it looks like a sixth kit could easily fit. If there wasn't another kit packed inside, there would certainly have had to be some type of packing involved

to keep the other boxes from moving inside the box. Inside all the individual kit boxes were their respective and common Plasticville HO kits. There's nothing unusual or even exciting about the kits themselves. Some kits were complete. Some had parts missing. Some parts had glue residue. There were even a couple of parts sprues remaining. Although I was hoping for a surprise when opening up the kit boxes, nothing out of the ordinary was hiding in there. There was an unexpected plus with all the kits having their parts list and assembly instructions present. Not uncommon to find those. What I found was nothing more than what I usually find when opening any old Plasticville HO kit box. Or was it?



Now, doing a quick study of my catalogs, I see the four digit item number appears in the HO-E 1957 catalog first. Actually, the four digit number is followed by the (HO-__) earlier kit number in parenthesis in the 57 catalog. It's not until the 1958 catalog that the four digit kit number stands alone. The kits in this group are of the Picture Frame type and should be dated from 1966 to 1975? Looking at, PCA member, Bruce Battens' information on the HO boxes, that is what you'll find. So they must be at least from 1966. If you'll notice, the item number is alone on the kit boxes in this group. There is no price after the item number on any of these kits. The same is found on the parts list, assembly instructions. Just a four digit item number is present on the paper. Again in Bruce Battens information, the price was removed from the kit boxes in the later years of production, so can these be some of the later kits? Or would the kits supplied in this Sears Assortment not have any price as they may have been sold that way for Sears?

I'm just guessing on all of this. All I can go on are my hunches, my catalogs for reference and help from other PCA members. I have no Sears' catalogs to reference from. PCA member Robert Spivey has a number of Sears' catalogs and was consulted for research on the kit in the last Villager. He helped with information which he was able to uncover and that was included in the

last article. I've been crazy busy in these last weeks and have had no time to ask for help on this one. With the way the last number of years have been, being crazy busy again is a good thing! The last work year ended in a whirlwind, of too much to do and not enough time to get it all done. The New Year may be a continuation of the same. At least the indications are there that it may. Hopefully someone will do a search and see what can be found regarding this assortment. I know I would be thankful for anything more about it. I'm sure the PCA would be as well.

Till the next time,

Dominic



PEN TIPS

Did you ever try to assemble or take apart a building with slot type connections and they are tight? Thus increasing your chances of breaking the part or parts. (Example small Church and the Cathedral) I have a solution: Take a emery board (cardboard finger nail file) and run it through the slots. Filing off a tiny bit of the plastic on either side of the slots. Performing this task will enable you to assemble and take apart the connections with ease and lessen the chance of breakage. Victor Bodek PCA 11-722.

Pen Tips are helpful suggestions sent to the editor by members that are too small to constitute an article and are used as newsletter space fillers. A PCA pen is sent to the author when their tip is published.

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FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

Mini Ghostbusters

RON SCHLICHT



Preface

I have been a member of the Plasticville Collectors Association since 2002. Over the years, I have always enjoyed their newsletters. Many of us had Plasticville as a child. If you had a small train layout be it Lionel or American Flyer, as I had, you probably received Plasticville for a building accessory. For years I have thought about writing articles for *The Villager*. Unfortunately I never got around to it. I know a bit about PV however I do not claim to be an expert. I will start to be a contributor by writing some articles on a regular basis. At one time in the past, I did work for another organization. Whether some liked it or not, my style has always been to attempt to inject a bit of humor into my articles. We can't take our hobbies too seriously; when we do they are no longer fun but work. So here we go. Keep in mind that everything that I write will be based on my own layouts (I have two of them). "Figuratively Speaking" was chosen as my moniker because in have over 3,600 figures on my layout. Many of which are one of a kind custom figures that I have created.



Over the past few years I have modified and innumerable amount of figures from Plasticville, K-Line, Marx, Preiser, Etc. Etc. Etc. and figures unknown. The Ghostbusters admittedly were my biggest challenge.

The first picture is of the figures as they were originally produced. They are K-Line filling station attendants. A few years back they came in boxed sets of people. Now they are included with filling stations.



The second picture shows some of the modifications with glue being applied to make the coveralls and other features. The original figures that I started were broken and needed a lot of work. Some of the arm positions are starting to be modified and some carving, sanding and filing has begun. The feet had to be

reconstructed. The examples shown are for illustrating purposes are relatively new, unmodified figures.



The third picture shows the completed figures along with one an original, which ends up as the third figure from the left. It shows all of the types of changes that have to be made to the figures.



The fourth picture is just a back view. The "PROTONE PACKS" were made from very small bits of plastic and glued together. There are over 40 pieces per pack. Small pieces of wire and thread were also used.



I gathered about 20 pictures from the Internet to try to make the packs and figures look as close as I could to the movie characters. The scale of the packs turned out to be a bit bigger than the actual movie props, perhaps by 20% or so. In spite of that, I am somewhat surprised that they turned out to be better than I thought they would. I used a lot of Testors glue to shape some of the body parts. By letting it partially dry I can manipulate it and form things like the hairlines, clothing and other features. I also used some tape for straps and belts.

Outside of the time involved (nearly three weeks), there was practically no material cost on my part. Every one of items from the figures (free) to the glue, styrene, tape and common scrap materials used, were things that I happen to have laying around. I hardly ever throw materials away that might be used on other projects.



ALONG THE OTHER LINE - THE K-LINE

K-4132 Barn and Chicken Coop

BY KEN HONICK #10-628



Hello to everyone, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I did not think it was going to be good for me, it was a repeat of last year! The roof leaked in my living room, same place and same time as last year, right above my big entertainment center! Once again I began to start the long process getting ready to build my big Christmas layout. I always start by decorating my large entertainment center. On a rainy weekend here in western PA I once again noticed a leak above my entertainment center, which I thought was repaired last year. To make a long story short, I was so mad, because I really look forward to putting up my big Christmas layout. It is a lot of work but a labor of love and is enjoyed by family and friends. I think we found the problem, at least we hope, and will have to wait and see. Like last year, I put my display up in a different place in my living room. It turned out fine and looks good. It will remain up until the first week of February.

My article for this issue is about the K-Line, K-4132 barn and chicken coop. It is a very handsome barn, very different than the Plasticville counterpart, I own both. It measures 7x 5 inches. It has an attached silo, peaked front roof, two silver vents on the roof, and sliding barn doors on the front. Above the barn doors is a hay loft which has its own door. On one side there are five framed windows while the other side has four windows and a nice top and bottom door.



There are many similar barns in my neck of the woods as you go north and east in PA. I go to Gettysburg every other year, and boy there are many barns like that out there. When you go to Lancaster PA the barns there are very different. The barn comes molded in red with a red silo. The roof and silo top are tan. Tan is also used for the trim on the windows and doors.



The Chicken coop is a very nice style; it is molded in two different shades of tan. I choose to paint the side of the chicken coop red to match the barn. The farm set came with a 14 pieces of white 3-rail fence. It also came with a farmer and wife, 2 cows, 2 horses, 2 goats, 2 pigs, tan in color but no chickens! I guess they wanted to keep and cost down, or they were too small. It would have been nice if they did have chickens, other than that it is a top notch set. I painted the farmer and farmer's wife to my liking.

When I saw this barn at my local hobby shop, I fell in love with it. My first love is Plasticville, but I like K-Line a lot too. It makes a nice addition to my Christmas layout. It is one of the first buildings, I bought when Lionel came back into my life and I am very happy with it. I have seen different versions of it in green, and a different style box, at another local hobby store. I may pick it up next time I am there.



I am going to a train show tomorrow, maybe I will see one there in a different color, I sure will be looking. That is about it for now. Happy New Year and happy railroading for now, until next time!

Best Wishes!
Ken Honick

Plasticville on the Boards

Readers Write

By John Gottcent



This being my last column for *The Villager*, I thought I would reminisce and share with you some of my favorite moments from previous issues.

Many have to do with nostalgia. As noted in the February 2012 issue, my father started buying Plasticville for our Christmas train layout almost as soon as Bachmann started producing it in the early 1950's. I honestly cannot recall a holiday season without at least a few of those buildings making an appearance. (See Photo One.)



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

Another memory, strangely enough, has to do with complaints. My kids have called me an old curmudgeon for many years, and I must admit I have indulged this tendency on more than one occasion in these pages. I've complained about the unrealistic nature of plastic village people (August 2010), trees (July 2012), and automobiles (February 2013). I'm tempted to say I take it all back, but hey, we try to be fair and balanced here!

Of course, I've had my share of catastrophes over the years. I recall reporting (February 2011) on how I inadvertently knocked over a highway bridge supported by trestles on my layout.

The entire bridge and all its contents went crashing down onto the buildings and unsuspecting citizens below, doing damage which was much worse than anything delivered (yet) by nature.

I was reminded of a sign in our local zoo asking which animal is the most dangerous creature on earth. Answer: humans.

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



There have been other disasters, including a mild earthquake and a basement flood, but none have been more embarrassing than the one I caused myself.

I recall a number of "just for fun" moments in the past. One of my favorites was the time we ran a trivia quiz (February 2014). It included this "trick" question: Is Plasticville located east or west of the Mississippi River?

Recall the answer? Although it may have sounded like a trick question, it really isn't. Because the call letters on the Plasticville Television Station are WPLA (see Photo Three), the town must be located east of the Mississippi. Otherwise the letters would have to be KPLA.



I think my fondest memories, though, are of the projects I've put together on my layout and reported on in this column. There was the time I saw through the complete construction of a house by moving over time from the House Under Construction to a finished Cape Cod (February 2010), and the time we discussed unusual uses of Plasticville buildings, like turning a Colonial Mansion into a hotel or a School House into a library (August 2011).



But I think the projects I'm most proud of are creating a multi-story Motel (see Photo Four) and converting a Large Supermarket into a movie theater (Photo Five). The results of those labors still sit on my operating layout.

The point of this column has been to talk about the practical uses of plastic buildings; as opposed to the idea of collecting them (though I'll admit I do my share of the latter, too). I hope you've found some useful tips now and then, and I hope someone will come along to take up the slack and provide more tips of their own.



I certainly have enjoyed the ride, and I look forward to reading each future issue of *The Villager*. You're welcome to continue to write to me at jandjgott@gmail.com. Meanwhile, as always, happy villaging!

An advertisement for Brennan's Model Railroading. The background shows a model train with a black locomotive labeled 'NEW YORK CENTRAL 622' and a brown freight car labeled 'NYC 11427'. In the foreground, there is a model bus with a white top and a blue and orange bottom. The text 'Brennan's Model Railroading' is written in a large, white, serif font, with 'The Finest in Quality Model Railroading Products' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. At the bottom, the phone number '(816) 252-4605' and the website 'www.brennansmodelrr.com' are displayed in a white, sans-serif font.



StoryTown U.S.A.

#5001 Humpty Dumpty

by Chris P. Matthy #01-73



*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
All the kings horses and all the king's men
Cannot put Humpty Dumpty together again.*

At first, it seems like we are encountering yet another child's rhyme with violent undertones, what with the great fall and not being able to be put together. But this is one of those little rhymes which actually is a riddle, and the answer isn't hard to guess: an egg - which is why Humpty almost always is portrayed as exactly that, including at Storytown U.S.A.

And, thankfully, Humpty was still on top of his wall at Storytown, though both Humpty and the wall changed over the years. From postcards and other pictures this seems to be the story: the early wall, though colorful in green, red and yellow, is done in artistic kinds of swatches of color; later, the wall is white, with individual blocks picked out in yellow, tan, orange and red; an even later picture shows Humpty's wall in yellow with the bricks tan, orange or red, and green. The early picture has the display protected by a simple wire fence, while later pictures show an ornate yellow iron fence.

Most interesting is Humpty himself (or herself, though probably not). A Google search of Humpty Dumpty will show that a vast majority of images show an egg which is a head at the top and clothed on the bottom, with arms coming out at the middle and legs at the bottom (go ahead, check it out -- I'll be here when you get back). Charley Wood, in his own manner, portrayed Humpty literally as an egghead, with a torso with arms and legs below.



Humpty also changed just as the wall did. The early Humpty is a yellow egg with a mostly monochrome body. The later Humpty has blue shoes and top hat, red and white striped socks, a yellow suit with white shirt cuffs, a green and white checked bow-tie, and a flesh-colored head with more realistic features and much more red hair. And of course, since he hasn't fallen yet, he has a big smile on his face.



As with the other kits, #5001 shows that Wood and Bachmann did a creative interpretation of the park's display. In the kit the block wall has been plastered over, but there are some places where the plaster has broken off, showing the blocks beneath. Perhaps these "broken" areas, along with a number of simulated cracks, are supposed to be subliminal hints that get us to think about what is about to happen to Humpty!

Not satisfied with that, the wall received a gate as well, which in its look echoes the later protective fence. The hinges are a clever bit of delicate engineering by Bachmann, trapping the gate between opposed pieces on the wall halves so it can swing. Unfortunately, those hinges also are the parts that most often are broken, though the gate will stay in place and even swing with just one hinge -- I know this from my examples. And while the original wall has a modest cap, the more ornate kit piece is designed, along with the base, to hold the walls together.

Then there is Humpty himself, who is scaled much larger in the kit than he is in the original display. Perhaps most interesting in the kit's Humpty are the facial features which, in my mind, more resemble a Lewis Carroll illustration than the perky, happy egghead at Storytown U.S.A. In addition, the kit emphasizes his "egginess" by molding him in white in all three variations. The top hat matches the park's Humpty, though the box illustration, which is almost scary looking, shows a more fedora-type or cowboy-type hat.

As for Humpty's construction, it really is a delicate process. The hands and legs are designed to slip into their appropriate slots and, with a twist, stay in place, though the lower hand can't do



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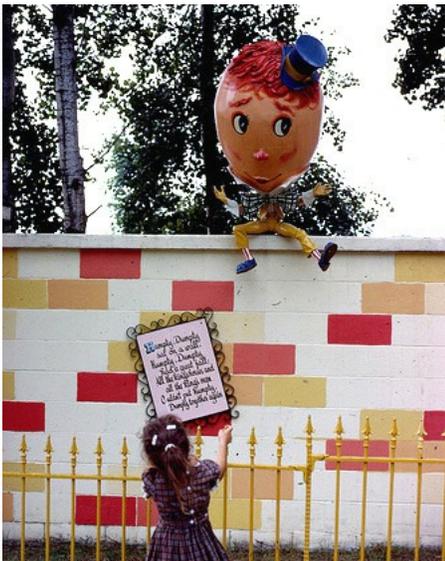
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this when the torso is in place. The torso is held together only at the bottom by its large peg which inserts into the wall cap. Meanwhile, the head is held together by the hat at the top and then nestled into the torso. I wouldn't doubt there were a lot of frustrated children who couldn't get Humpty together again!



I find it interesting that the three color variations of Humpty all involve the yellow, green and red of the original early wall scheme. Again, it makes sense that if all the pieces were in one mold, Bachmann could just make three color runs and then mix and match the pieces as follows:

1. Yellow walls & hands; green base, gate & torso; red lollipop flowers, wall cap, legs and top hat.

2. Red walls & hands; yellow base, gate & torso; green lollipop flowers, wall cap legs and top hat.

3. Green walls and hands; red base, gate & torso; yellow lollipop flowers, wall cap, legs and top hat.

Notice the symmetry in these variations.

There are no reproduction parts available for Humpty. And unlike the kits in earlier articles, Humpty used nothing from the Plasticville line; everything here was newly tooled.

Of course, the biggest disappointment might be that Humpty doesn't break apart. Remember that old spring-loaded toy car that would explode into pieces when it hit a wall, or Lionel's exploding box-car? Now that would have made this kit really fun. But as it was with Jack and Jill, it would have to be up to the full size player to give Humpty a tumble.



As a final note, the real Humpty (at least Wood's real Humpty) does indeed seem to be "together again" at the Six Flags park, though he now resides on an ornate stone wall with brick end pillars.

Bill Nole PLASTICVILLE for Sale
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Boxed Kits, Complete

LCCA Air Terminal & Hanger (Blue/Orange) Mint \$40 set
1900 Turnpike MINT \$50
0400 Mobile Home (Blue or Buff walls) \$12 ea or 2/\$18
1611 Hardware & Pharmacy, tough box number \$50
1809 Loading Platform, Mint \$20
1624 House Under Construction, Lt grey \$40
AD-4 Air Admin Bldg, Mint \$50
1623 Cattle Pen repaired tips with steers \$30
1913 Motel, No Cars \$10
BY-4 Barnyard Animals \$20
ON-5 Outdoor Necessities \$60
ST-1 Street Accessories Mint \$30
1908 Split Level House, Mint \$25
0600 Windmill KING MT \$30
1955 Citizens Mint \$20

No Box Kits, Complete

Railroad Work Car \$10, SUB Station \$8, Barn \$8, Motel \$8, HOBOSHACKS \$15, School \$10,
Fire Department \$12, Diner (red or yellow roof) \$12, Bank \$25, Turnpike green booths \$15,
Col Mansion (red roof) \$25, Country Church \$6, Add-A-Floor (red or brown) \$8 ea or 3/\$19,
Mobile Homes (8 different colors) \$12 ea or 6/\$60

Accessories

1050 Outhouse (brown) \$4 ea, 1090 Telephone Booth, (blue or white) 2/\$10, Pickup Truck \$6,
Fire Trucks (red, 1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$10 set – New: (yellow, 1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$15 set,
Hay Wagon w/8 stakes \$6, BBQs \$2.50 ea, SS-5 6 Street Corner signs with original tag \$8, no tag, \$1 ea
Shrubs (24 total) 3 each of green, blue, red, yellow, buff, flesh, chocolate & WHITE - \$20

Bus (yellow or green) \$5 ea, Ambulance (green) \$5 ea,
Jeep, Tractor, Plow, Harrow \$4 ea or 4/\$12. – WHITE SHRUBS 10/\$25

PLASTIC VILLAGE GAZETTE – Issues 1, 5 & 6 - \$3.00 ea.

PLASTICVILLE PARTS - \$2 ea

WINDSOCK, LOG CABIN CHIMNEY, FIRE DEPARTMENT SIREN, CHIMNEY CAP, POLICE
DEPARTMENT RED LIGHT, CHIMNEY CAP, HOSPITAL SIREN, ST CHAIR, DESK CHAIR,
CATTLE PEN CROSS BARS (with 2 holes or slot), BANK RED LIGHT, LARGE CANOPY, SMALL
CANOPY, SCHOOL WHITE LIGHT, HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION SHOVEL, RAKE, HOE,
BUCKET, SAW HORSE, GINGERBREAD HOUSE BRICK (white, tan, choc), JACK & JILL PAIL,
SHRUB (red, yellow, blue), OAR RED OR YELLOW, CLOTHESLINE (red, yellow, green), CASTLE
FLAG OR CHAIN (red, yellow, blue, white)
POST OFFICE FLAG \$6

LITTLETOWN, BOXED, COMPLETE #303 ST lights, \$25; #304 fence \$15

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

KING PLASTICVILLE ERTL TRACTOR TRAILER WITH BANK - \$15

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

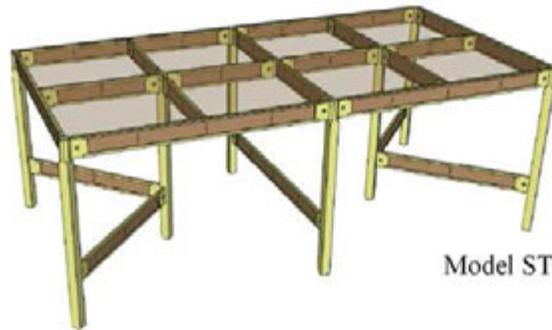
Dealer inquiries welcome for Plasticville Guides and Plasticville parts listed above.

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CREATIVE USE OF DAMAGED PARTS

Two Story Post Office Building

EDWARD L. JOHNSON



As 2015 unfolds I wish my fellow travelers thru the world of Plasticville a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Previous articles focused on my discovery of a box of mismatched building parts. Those parts became *Junction* – a station with a switch tower, *Store Front/Tenement* a store front with a two story tenement above it, and *VFW Hall* using the sides and back of a plastic building. This article describes how I made use of the front, one side and back of the Plasticville Post office and the front entrance portion of the Plasticville factory model.

The simplest way to use the front, one side and back of the post office model would be to simply fabricate side panel and roof and be done. Instead I chose to add the portion of the factory entrance to the Post Office front and create a two story commercial building. The parts used are shown below.



In a previous article (Tenement / Store Front) I mentioned that I started a project with no particular plan which then prolonged construction of a model. Subsequently I started to draw up rudimentary plans. However, for this model I drew out floor plans for the Post Office and offices on the second floor. This plan included provision for an elevator to the second floor. The photo on the left shows the plastic parts glued together. The object in front is the customer counter. The photo on the right shows the completed Post office interior laid out according to the



plan. The figures in front are prospective customers to be added later.

This last photo shows the completed interior from a different angle. The covering on the rear vestibule wall is from an art catalog. It will be used on the vestibule walls. Drawing a floor plan expedited construction of this model. Parts were measured, cut and assembled with accuracy. Most parts only required a minimal trim for a good fit. The interior of the Post Office is decorated with images from the Internet. A Google search for "Post Office interiors" provided an abundance of images. Images were selected, down loaded, cut out and glued in place. For example, the left side of this Post Office has mail boxes. Images were found for the approximate scale (1/48) cut out and glued to the walls.



By the time of the next newsletter this Post Office should be open for business.

Till then:

That's all folks!

Eddie J



Plasticville Reproduction Parts

Unless otherwise specified, listed parts are \$2.00 each

Specify items by building name, part needed, quantity of each part being ordered, and desired color of each part

Colonial Church, Country Church, Parrish Church – Cross

Parrish Church - Windows – Striped or Stained - \$3.00

BN-1 Barn – Horse Weathervane, Ventilator w/hole, Ventilator w/o hole

Farm Implement Hay Wagon Stakes – Set of 8, \$4.00

5 & 10 Store – Left Window insert, Middle Window insert, Right Window insert

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

Factory – Stair Railing

Frosty Bar – Roof Sign - \$3.50, Stool

Small Gas Station - Window Insert (black or red & black)

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

TV Station – Antenna Globe (not glow in the dark) - \$1.50

1 1/2 Story House – Antenna, Chimney Half

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

Cape Cod – Chimney (please specify color)

Colonial Mansion – Chimney Half

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

Ranch House – Chimney (specify same color as Ranch House wall)

Split Level House – Large Rain Gutter, Small Rain Gutter

Log Cabin – Chimney

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

School – White Lamp w/Globe - \$3.00, Weathervane

Town Hall – Weathervane

Turnpike Interchange – Light Holder, Traffic Cone

Freight Station – Cardstock "Plasticville" sign - \$1.50

Loading Platform – Cardstock "Plasticville" sign (printed both sides) - \$1.50, Chimney

Suburban Station – Cardstock "Plasticville" sign (printed one side) - \$1.00, Bench, Chimney

Switch Tower – Platform - \$4.50, Chimney

Watchman's Shanty – Chimney, Front Light

Bench for 1918 Park Assortment – dark green

Swimming Pool Insert - \$2.50

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

K-LINE: BOXES, BAGS, AND BLISTERPACKS

DONALD W. HUOVINEN



If you attended the PCA get together at York in October 2014 you know that I am attempting to write “the” definitive work about K-Line buildings. As a result of several conversations about K-Line buildings with John Niehaus, I have agreed to write a series of articles about the boxes that K-Line buildings and accessories came in. This whole thing is definitely a work in progress and I welcome your comments. If you are interested in K-Line buildings and have anything to add or wish to assist, please e-mail me at dhuov@aol.com.

I have identified a number of boxes and packaging that the buildings and accessories came in and have arranged them in a more or less chronological order. The list begins with the first buildings produced which used the old Marx molds.

K-Line first cataloged buildings in the 1981 catalog. Manufacturer’s catalogs are notoriously inaccurate at times and K-Line’s catalogs are no exception. The 1981 catalog however includes actual photographs of the buildings and accessories. but the photos may not have be items manufactured during production runs. The catalog shows 14 buildings and 3 accessories, “Also available but not pictured” were 6 additional accessories. Each of these 23 items were manufactured using the old Marx molds.

To box these items, K-Line used a quasi-generic box which I will refer to as **Box 1**. I have included individual photos showing all sides of the box.



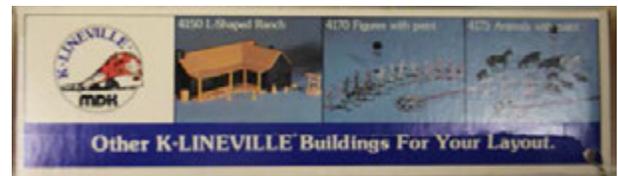
The boxes change over time, details relevant to Box 1 are as follows:

- The box has a white background.
- There is a picture of K-Lineville printed on the right two-thirds of the *FRONT* of the box. This is the same picture which appears on the cover of the 1981 catalog.
- There is a round K-LINEVILLE MDK logo printed in the upper left corner of the front of the box. In the logo the locomotive is red. This logo is similar to that appearing on

the back cover of the 1981 catalog and is the first of four logos K-Line would use throughout the years.



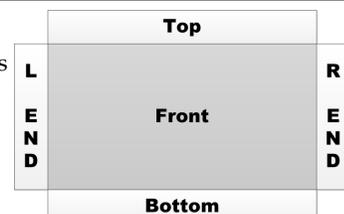
- On the lower left portion of the box front the item is described as being a “Full O Scale Building Kit/For use with all Lionel and other O Scale layouts/Easy to assemble/Snap fit assembly/Pre-colored parts/Realistic detailing”.
- “Snap fit assembly” was inked out when this box was used for K-4178 Water Tower as this accessory had to be glued together!
- The reference to Lionel is significant in that this was K-Line’s first real foray into O gauge trains and for most people Lionel was synonymous with O scale.
- There is a small color sticker affixed to the upper corner of the front of the box which extends down over the *RIGHT END* of the box which identifies the item included in the box. Normally the item number as well as the item description is on the description. The photos used on the sticker, one of which is on the top of the box and the other on the right side of the box are the same as those shown in the 1981 catalog. Items produced in subsequent years included a similar sticker but the sticker may be colored or black and white.
- The *LEFT END* of the box has the same photo as the front along with the K-LINEVILLE MDK logo.
- The *TOP* of the box contains illustrations of the Diner and Street Lights and Accessories as well as an illustration of a Track Layout and Accessory Manual.
- The *BOTTOM* of the box contains illustrations of the L-Shaped Ranch House, Figures with paint, and Animals with paint.



- The *BACK* of the box contains illustrations of twelve buildings different buildings under a blue banner with white text reading, “K-LINEVILLE O Scale Building Kits Make Your

Common Box Lingo

- Front - Largest side with the most detail describing the contents
- Back - Largest side opposite the front
- Ends - Vertical surfaces on the right & left of the front
- Top/Bottom - Surface on the top/bottom of the front



Layouts Fun and Realistic." with the same logo as on the top of the box in the upper left hand corner.



- There is no mention of a country of origin, therefore it can be assumed that these items were manufactured in the U.S.
- 12 buildings are illustrated on the rear of the box. The church is listed as 4110 Church. This is significant as the Church would be renumbered to 4111 in the 1983 catalog.

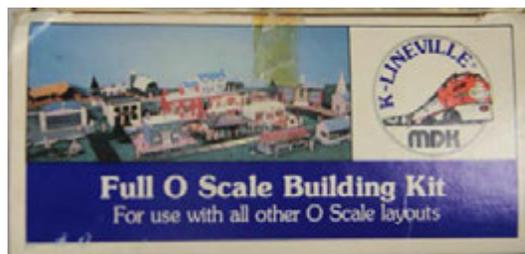
I have found these boxes in two sizes:

- 10 ½ × 6 ¼ × 3 inches
- 12 × 6 ¾ × 2 ¾ inches

In general, the larger (bulkier) buildings and accessories came in the larger box. However I have found the K-4120, Ranch House, in both size boxes. So there may be others. I would be interested in hearing of other buildings or accessories which came in both boxes.

I would like to thank the following for their help and inspiration in my ongoing study of K-Line buildings and accessories: Ed Berg, Sears Buggs, Ron Dise, Robert Middour, and John Niehaus.

© 2015, Donald W. Huovinen



Left End



Right End



Top

JANUARY, 2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The January 2015 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM, Eastern time, on January 7 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:

Website Revision

Secretary/treasurer Niehaus reported that he has now sent six payments to the website developer. He also reported that from various communications with the website developer that there is continuing progress in the redesign.

The Parts Bin

Secretary Niehaus reported that he created a certificate of appreciation and that it had been sent to Charles Swanson after being signed by President Gilliatt and himself. He also reported that he has yet to write a short article relating how *The Parts Bin* came into being. It is his hope the article will be completed and sent to the newsletter editor prior to the May edition of *The Villager*.

Large donation of Plasticville pieces/buildings

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has completed an "auction" list with photos as well as a special receipt for the fundraiser. He

also stated that he has created an announcement of the fundraiser and that it has been sent to newsletter editor for publication in the February newsletter, hopefully, on the front page.

New Business:

Website redesign grant from Bachmann

Secretary Niehaus reported that he was in receipt of a \$1,000 grant from Bachmann to be used exclusively for the website redesign.

Reordering t-shirts and a special order of polo shirts

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to place an announcement in the May edition of *The Villager* including a form for pre-ordering either style of shirt. The motion also stipulated that all pre-orders are to be received by the PCA no later than June 30.

Iowa biennial report and Federal 990N annual report

Secretary Niehaus reported that both the Iowa biennial and the Federal 990N reports were filed on January 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus

Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, January 9, 2015

PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 205

The Highway

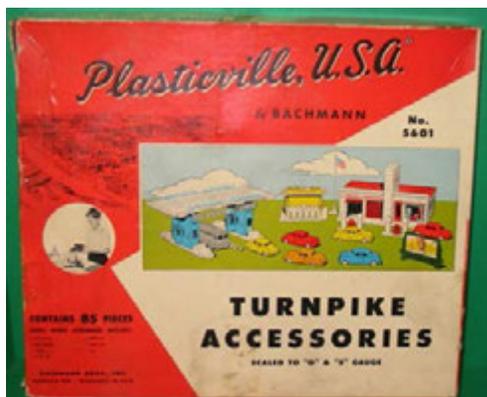
ROBERT SPIVEY



Plasticville highway boxed sets consisted of a group of structures which could be associated with a trip along The New Jersey Turnpike and the Franklin Highway. These highway sets supplemented Bachmann's transportation themes: trains, planes, and now cars. The highway sets were a later concept thus expanding the horizon of "The town that grows and grows". All highway boxed sets were produced in the number era.

The number era started in 1956, and along with the International Airport 5600, the Plasticville Turnpike 5601 started the year with a bang. When built up, this set portrays an awesome highway interchange scene. The toll booth is a New Jersey Turnpike architectural model, and the large modern gas station is like many of similar design to one in Cheltenham, PA. Of course what child doesn't scream for ice cream; I know that I would hope my dad needed gas near to that Tasty Freeze along his way. The Plasticville Highway 5601 core structures were an interchange with four pylons (1956) which was new to that year, a large gas station (1955), and a frosty bar (1954). It's vehicles were a grey bus and six automobiles of almost any color but black (1954). The set was sparsely detailed with an American Flag (1953), and a Solarex billboard (year of color signboards undetermined).

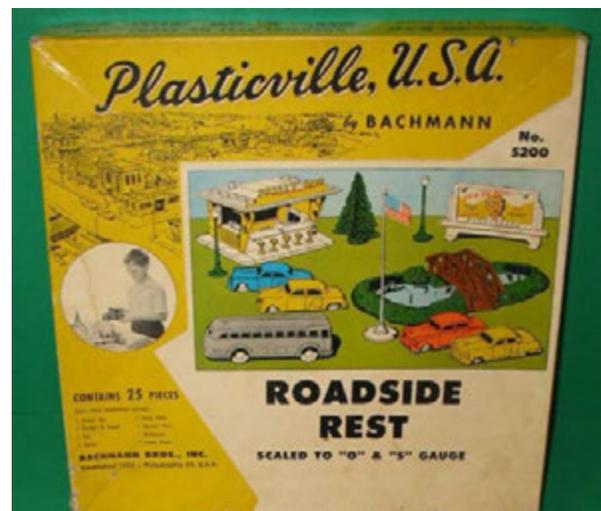
The Plasticville Turnpike 5601 was packaged in a number era gift box with the same basic graphics configuration as the International Airport 5600. The box color was light brick red over white, separated diagonally. At first glance this box size appears to be the same size as the 5600. Not so. The Turnpike used the same box size (17 x 14 1/2 x 2 1/2) as the SP & PB 8's. No other boxed set will ever again come in this box size. It's dividers measured: one very large tray @ 14 1/4 x 7 1/2 inches, and three along side measuring @ 9 1/4 x 4 1/2 inches each. The letterboxed rendering of contents was set on a pale green lawn under a blue sky with billowing clouds. Shadows indicated a noon day sun. The picture accurately represented the contents.



Turnpike Accessories Master Unit #5601. Photo courtesy of Lou Conway.

Dues to some confusion on my part article 205 is appearing before 204, look for article 204 in May. -Editor

The Plasticville Roadside Rest 5200 was also cataloged in 1956. This set portrays an often found picnic area along the Franklin Highway, and is very typical of most state park properties across the nation. For this reason Bachmann included street lamps and elements of a lightly forested scenic pond. The Roadside Rest 5200 core components were a white over yellow frosty bar (1954), paired with a bridge and pond (1950). It's vehicles were a grey bus and four automobiles of almost any color but black (1954). The set was detailed with an American Flag (1953), a Solorex billboard (year of color signboards undetermined), two glow in the dark lamp posts and a spruce tree (1950) all in the most common colors.



Roadside Rest Master Unit # 5200 box. Photo courtesy of Lou Conway.

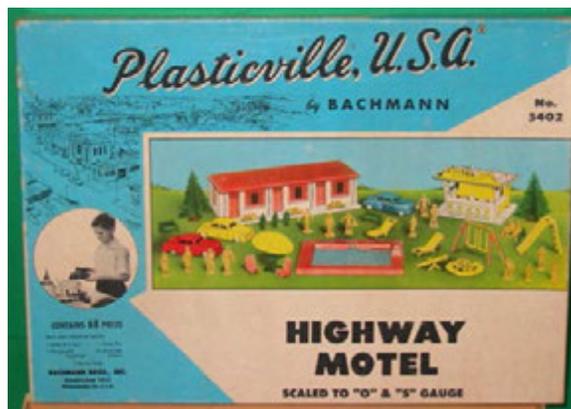
The roadside Rest 5200 was packaged in a small 12 inch square number era box with typical graphics. The box color was Caterpillar yellow over white, separated diagonally. It's dividers were one large 11 7/8 x 5 1/2 inch tray, and twin 5 7/8 x 6 inch trays. Although this box size was used for many letter era sets, no other boxed set will ever again come in this square box. The letterboxed rendering of contents was set on an expanded pea green lawn under a light blue cloudless sky. Shadows indicated a noon day sun. The picture accurately represented the contents.

The Plasticville Highway Motel 5402, cataloged in 1957, depicted a typical motor court found all up and down the East coast. Although it's flat roof style is most associated with central Florida, the motel is similar to an architectural segment of Morrell's Motor Lodge in Breezewood, PA, exit 6 on The Pennsylvania Turnpike. Many other motels in Pennsylvania must have also been based on that same architectural plan (I could guess a builder out of Harrisburg). The Plasticville Highway Motel 5402 was composed of a motel with three autos all in the most common colors and flowers each of individual colors (1957), paired with a frosty bar (1954). The frosty bar would least likely be salmon. The accessories were the playground equipment

(1957), 16 citizens (1954), and two spruce trees (1950). The playground's colors were contrasting: for example, if the swings were salmon then the "A" frame would be yellow, if the merry-go-round was yellow then the base would be salmon, the lounge and the chairs would also be opposite colors. The base card for the swimming pool would be textured with simulated waves. Both the motel and the playground were new items in 1957.

The Highway Motel 5402 was packaged in a (14 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 2 3/8) number era box. This set box was the same as the Community Church 5401, and so it will be termed the 5400 series box. The box color was light turquoise blue over white, separated diagonally. Its dividers were one large 14 x 4 3/4 inch tray, and twin 6 7/8 x 5 inch trays. The letterboxed rendering of contents was set on an airbrushed demi-green lawn under a cloudless light blue sky with hammocks of foliage along the horizon. Although the picture depicts an accurate scene, portions were crudely done. This was atypical - as if not ready for prime time. The rendering was a mix of retouched photograph and sketching. Two of the cars and some of the furniture were drawn in as if they were not originally part of the artist's study model. Two spruce trees were actual photographs after the fact. The sidewalk and the frosty bar back wall are incorrectly filled in as white. Bachmann's box

art was on the verge of a significant improvement to be previewed on one box in late 1957, and to be solidified in 1958. The superb Interceptor Squadron is a 1958 set. Also included in this chapter are two number era sets with similar problems.



Highway Motel Master Unit # 5402 box. Photo courtesy of Lou Conway.

Continued on page 23.

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Two number era farms are included in this chapter because they are very large and have vehicles. These number era farms differ from their letter era counterparts, in large part because they exemplify farms which you might expect to see along a super highway trip. The letter era farms were more R. F. D. The Plasticville Farm 5603, cataloged in 1956, was the first farm to include vehicles - a tractor, a pick up truck, and a Jeep. Once more "The town that grows and grows" hits home. It's house was one of suburbia. The set includes a white ranch house (1951), a red roof barn (which in the individual 1601 box of 1956 is considered rare), farm out buildings with 16 small animals and farm equipment (1956) which was new to that year, 18 barnyard animals (1952), plus 12 pieces of house fence, a yard pump, a wishing well, three spruce trees, and six shrubs (all 1950), all in the most common colors.

The Plasticville Farm 5603 was packaged in a medium size (18 × 11 ½ × 2 ⅞) number era box, having the same basic graphics as the highway sets. The box color was green over white, separated diagonally. It's dividers were four trays: two of which were 7 ½ × 5 ½ inches, flanked by a long 11 ⅞ × 3 ¾ inch tray and a somewhat larger 11 ⅞ × 6 ½ inch tray. The following accessories were each packaged in a crisp heat sealed bag: small domestic animals, barnyard animals (two bags / half and half), house fence, and the vehicle's white wheels. The yellow parts for the green vehicles were attached to a forming sprue. Other items were loose. Packing boxed sets seemed to be a group effort because I have never run across any enclosed packer's ID number. The inference may be that when those accessories are found in other number era set boxes then they will have been like so packaged.



Plasticville Farm Master Unit # 5603 box. Photo courtesy of Lou Conway.

The letterboxed rendering of contents were scattered on a pale green lawn under a light blue sky with flat based clouds. Only a few of the smallest animals had shadows. Color exemptions were numerous, and they will be covered outside the body of this chapter. Otherwise the picture represents an accurate scene.

The countryside Farm 5606, cataloged in 1956, was packaged in a set box that corrected the downward trend of Bachmann's box top art. It's scene was a well organized style similar to an illustration worthy of a published child's storybook. The sets contents were also refashioned with larger main buildings. The

contents included a red two story colonial house with a grey (not charcoal) roof, 1954, and a Tuscan dairy barn, 1957, which was new to that year. The accessories did not include a wishing well, a yard pump, or trees; otherwise the accessories remained the same, and were likely packaged the same as the Plasticville Farm 5603.



Countryside Farm Master Unit # 5606 box. Photo courtesy of Lou Conway.

The Countryside Farm was packaged in a medium size box with the same dividing trays as the Plasticville Farm 5603. The box top was unique. The entire box top surface was a borderless reimagined diorama of a large acreage farm. It's buildings were set on a textured foreground; animals were alert or feeding, the vehicles are staged for the work day. Plowed fields extend toward a gently folded horizon in the acreage beyond. "Plasticville U. S. A." in italics, and "by Bachmann" in block letters below, were imposed on a warm blue sky with retreating clouds. The set name and number appeared on a white space all along the box top's lower edge, and also upon the red end panels and upon the white side panels. The selling point "Easily assembled without glue or tools" was written on each end panel. The sketches along the side panels which usually pictured unrelated kits, actually represent the house and the barn. The picture incorrectly shows a small barn, otherwise the picture accurately represents the contents. The small barn (which in the 1601 individual box is considered rare) was now sidelined like the small gas station, not to return until the lean year's of Scenic Classics.

There is a box variation of this set. It is a typical Caterpillar yellow number era box. This box variation was available for a brief time preceding the intended box type. The box was very similar to the Plasticville Farm 5603; it had all the same flaws. Further inclusion of these flaws would encumber the text; an "Appendix to Chapters" will be written for such details, and also to post reader's feedback. Additional information will be found in paragraph 5603 and paragraph 5606 of the appendix.

In summary, the story of the highway group was one of expansion, and their concept was truly unique to the number era. These sets were able to co-exist with the Cities in a Box, while others did not. The following kits are recommended to supplement the highway sets: a covered bridge, a mobile home or two, a lot of phone poles, boulevard lamps and signs, and a diner with many payphones along the way. In closing, why did the Countryside Farm chicken cross the road? He crossed to show the 'possum that it COULD be done.

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WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

Mike Marmer wrote:

In the November 2014 issue of the PCA newsletter, it was mentioned that I felt that many of the Plasticville pieces readily fit an S gauge layout than a O gauge layout. I am not sure how it was written on a email I sent to the PCA about Plasticville pieces I have painted for my layout, but I did not mean to offend anyone who is a O gauger, about using Plasticville products on a layout. It is something that I read somewhere and I can not find where I read that Plasticville is more in scale to S.

But I googled Plasticville and found this. On a Wikipedia for Plasticville, it is written:

Most Plasticville buildings are 1:64 scale with 1:48 scale doors, a design compromise that allows them to be used with O gauge, O27 gauge, or S gauge train layouts without looking far off-scale. This allowed one product line to serve Lionel's low-end and high-end product lines as well as American Flyer's product line in the 1950s. Later, as HO scale gained popularity, Bachmann produced a line of 1:87 scale buildings for that standard.

I do not know who wrote this for that webpage, but I had no idea about the windows, as looking at the picture for my RR station, yes, the doors are a bit bigger than a door should be in S. One inch in S is 5.3 Feet, as door is about 7 feet high. the people by the door making out! are in scale to S. The Coke machine is from a HO Plasticville gas station.

Anyway I did not mean to step on anyone toes on using Plasticville for O gauge layouts.

Rick Kotowski wrote:

Wow those new billboards are "GREAT", I really like the "welcome to Plasticville" one!

Ray Stoudt wrote:

I ordered a sheet of the "Welcome to Plasticville" billboard sheets. I was surprised to see that they were in color when I

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING, WITH PICTURES

Rick Kotowski shared one of his Christmas gifts with, two rare BC Apples billboards, one green and one red, and a "Welcome to Plasticville Billboard". *The BC Apples insert is from Canadian Plasticville for more information see The Villager Vol. 7 No. 2.*



received them! They are beautiful. That is why I ordered two more sheets of them.

Jason Rackawack Wrote:

As a side note, I have a vote on the Plasticville flag with the diagonal fold in it question that was asked recently, I have just bought a post office kit in the original 1st style box (forget the kit number right now) and it has the tan walls silver roof, silver pole and a flag with a bend in it exactly like the one shown in the photo. So there are at least 2 kits out there like that. It feel it might have been intentional for looks or to give the flag some strength, looks like it might have been done as a part of the die cutting process.

Jeffrey Wayne Gardner Wrote:

I just received the sheet f the new billboards and they are fantastic! They are already on my layout. I hope the PCA can make some more with different ads.

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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. 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.

PCA ballpoint pen

PCA silver barrel with blue soft grip, black ink ballpoint pen with silver accents. The pen is imprinted *Plasticville Collectors Assn*, www.plasticvilleusa.org in two lines in blue lettering. \$4.00, postpaid.

Coffee Mug with PCA logo

White ceramic 11 oz. ceramic mug. PCA blue or black logo. \$9.95 or two for \$15.95, postpaid. Please specify your color choice when ordering. Only 24 pieces of black logo mugs were produced. 6 black and 2 blue remaining.

PCA Ball Caps

Dark Blue, Velcro-back ball cap with white PCA logo embroidered on the front. \$13.00 postpaid. 10 remaining

Billboard Inserts

Printed on white cardstock. \$5.00 postpaid or emailed as a PDF for free. Two versions available:

1. "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.
2. Seven different subjects plus one "Welcome To Plasticville" inserts including Friskies dog food, Motorola, Mercury and Lincoln autos, Sunoco and Gulf motor oil, and Eberhard Faber pink erasers. All are mid-fifties vintage.

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

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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. New additions are **bold**, additional parts added to previous listings are underlined.

*** O/S PLASTICVILLE ***	HP-8 Cape Cod	HO-73 Signal Bridge
<u>RH-1 Ranch House</u>	<u>HS-6 Hospital</u>	2904 Toy & Hobby Shop roof
<u>CC-9 Church</u>	<u>1621 Motel</u>	<u>2700 Coaling Station</u>
<u>1901 Union Station</u>	<u>SG-2 Signal Bridge</u>	2801 Factory - water tower
GO-3 Large Gas Station	1629 Bungalow	2901 Split Level wall - A/E
<u>BK-1 Bank</u>	<u>1624 House Under Construction</u>	2976 Contemporary House
<u>1908 Split Level House - no downspouts</u>	CS-5 Chain Store	2907 New Car Showroom
<u>LH-4 2 Story House</u>	<u>1504 Mobile Home</u>	<u>School House</u>
<u>LC-2 Log Cabin</u>	<u>BL-2 Bridge & Pond</u> - specify lt, med, dk green	Police Station
<u>GO-2 Small Gas Station</u>	CF-5 Picket Fence	Post Office
<u>SM-6 Small Super Market</u>	<u>1957 Coaling Tower</u>	Railroad Work Car
<u>RS-7 Suburban Station - no signs</u>	<u>WG-2 Crossing Gate</u>	Coaling Tower - E/G wall only
<u>PO-1 Post Office - no flags</u>	WG-10 Platform Fence Gate	Gas Station
<u>SM-7 Large Super Market</u>	1703 Colonial Mansion	<u>Cathedral</u>
1615 Water Tank - no spouts	<u>LM-3 Station Platform</u>	Street Signs
<u>CC7 & 8 Churches</u>	<u>BB-9 Billboard - specify color & type</u>	2673 instruction sheet
<u>1906 Factory</u>	1907 Apartment House	45972 instruction sheet
<u>SW-2 Switch Tower - no signs or smokestacks</u>	1805 Covered Bridge	Various doors and windows
<u>C-18 Cathedral</u>	1804 Greenhouse	*** SKYLINE ***
<u>PD-3 Police Station</u>	1806 Roadside Stand	K-10/K20 House
<u>FB-1 Frosty Bar</u>	1625 Railroad Work Car	K-5 Church
1622 Dairy Barn	1007 Rustic Fence	*** LITTLE TOWN ***
1408 Windmill	1034 Rustic Gate	101 Super Market
<u>1623 Cattle Pen</u>	1006 Platform Fence	105 Corner Store
<u>1617 Farm Buildings</u>	1032 Platform Fence Gate	106 General Store
<u>MH-2 New England Rancher</u>	YW-4 Yard Pump	111 Loading Platform roof
<u>1407 Watchman's Shanty</u>	1626 Corner Store	<u>112 School House</u>
<u>1900 Turnpike Interchange</u>	MH-2 New England Rancher instruction sheet	113 Church
<u>1803 Colonial Church</u>	1302 Yellow Tractor (body only)	108 Gas Station
<u>DH-2 Hardware & Pharmacy</u>	Swimming Pool (yellow, no insert)	110 Ranch House
<u>1620 Loading Platform</u>	<u>Miscellaneous doors & windows</u>	Slide, lounge, pool, umbrella table
1853 Drug Store	*** HO PLASTICVILLE ***	*** MARX ***
AP-1 Airport Hangar	<u>HO-59 Ranch House</u>	Barn
<u>AD-4 Airport Administration Building</u>	HO-74 Super Market	<u>Railroad Station</u>
<u>SC-4 School House -specify large or small holes on front</u>	HO-76 Drug and Hardware store?	Super Market
<u>PH-1 Town Hall</u>	2611 Cattle Pen	Gas Station
<u>DE-7 Diner</u>	2617 Cape Cod House	Rustic Fence
<u>1618 TV Station - no globes</u>	2608 Suburban Station	<u>Church</u>
<u>BN-1 Barn</u>	<u>2904 Drive-In Bank</u>	
<u>FH-4 Fire House</u>	2101 Block Signal,	

Continued on the following page.

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Newly Added Parts!



Available parts continued from the previous page.

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- Tyco 869 Horse Depot w/horses - no car
- Tyco 9088 Operating Crossing Gate
- Lifelike billboards - HO
- Guidancetown USA building parts
- Lionel Barrel loader (plastic kit)**
- Lionel billboard inserts - specify design**

*** EMPTY BOXES ***

- 2806 HO Suburban Station
- 2617 HO Cape Cod
- 2803 HO House Under Construction
- FH-1 Firehouse
- Build A House - red
- BN-1 Barn - green printing
- 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
- V-10 Assorted Vehicles**
- 1701 1 1/2 Story Rancher**
- 2301 Ranch House**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- Joseph J Castorino, Spring Hill, FL
- Frederick D Webster, Elkton, MD
- Phyllis A Krochmal, Vienna, VA
- Stephen D Burkett, Oakton, VA
- Michael A Baibak, Clarkston, MI
- William H Stitt, Chattanooga, TN
- Kenneth P McCune, Indianapolis, IN
- David F LeBlanc, Amesbury, MA
- Edward J Burshnick, Austin, TX
- John C Gerding, Glassboro, NJ
- Susan J Shaw, Mountain Lakes, NJ
- Daniel (Pete) C Robinson, Reisterstown, MD
- Todd W Edeker, Jewell, IA
- Katherine Scaccia, Irvington, NY
- Mark J Gimbl, Bear, DE
- Louis F Palumbo, New Castle, PA
- Doug J Wolff, Yardley, PA
- David A Bollinger, Upperco, MD
- Michael J Kane, North Wildwood, NJ
- James Shimer, Nottingham, PA
- Dennis Ingalls, Norton, MA
- Robert K Mentzell, Treichlers, 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 April 1, 2015.

- Edward P Hanson, Leesburg, FL
- Ron Richey, Mapleton, UT
- John J Zarek, Beverly Hills, MI
- C Daniel Burns, Westminster, MD
- Warren B Andrews, Littleton, CO
- Don Kyle, Marina, CA
- Duane K Bell, LaCrosse, WI
- Barry D Walker, Louisville, KY
- Gene L Morabito, Dowingtown, PA
- James F Folk, Yelm, WA

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Email:

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L NIEHAUS

The Greenberg's pocket price guides for 2015 have been available from Kalmbach for a few months. This year Kalmbach published a Lionel guide as well as an American Flyer. The American Flyer guide is the first in two years. There was no new Marx guide published this year. As I have stated in the past, I had presumed that the Marx and American Flyer guides would be published in alternate years. We will have to wait and see if a new Marx guide is published next year. The most recent one for Marx was published in 2012.

The Lionel guide is a one half inch thick. It contains the same seven sections as did last year's edition. Still missing in this year's guide are the black section markings on the edges of the pages. Those were a great help in quickly accessing a specific section of the guide. It seems that those index markings are now a thing of the past.

The American Flyer guide is slightly over a quarter inch thick. It contains six sections instead of the five sections in the 2013 edition. The new section covers MTH products from 2013-2015.

Both guides are in the standard 4 inch x 8 1/2 inch format.

Let's see how the prices fared for the ten pieces of Lionel that I have tracked for the last eight years. The news is somewhat mixed again this year. The 2343 AA units increased in price by \$11 and \$51 in Good and Excellent condition, respectively, from last year's \$144 and \$420. The 2343 type B B unit also moved up in both Good and Excellent condition to \$106 and \$272 respectively. The overall change in those conditions were \$4 and \$66. The only other piece showing an increase was the 2360 five stripe GG1 in Excellent condition. Its value increased by \$113. The excellent condition value for the 746 with long stripe tender took a beating this year. It dropped from \$946 to \$874. The good condition dropped \$4. Every other piece that I track, regardless of whether they are pre-war, postwar, or modern, retained their values as last year regardless of condition. The only exception was the Maroon #8 which lost \$45 in good condition.

My comparison of the American Flyer values are based on the 2013 edition of that price guide as Kalmbach did not publish one for 2014. All of the pieces that I track retained their values in good condition. The same was true for all but 21004 PRR switcher and the 484/85/86 Santa Fe ABA unit. Their Excellent values increased to \$358 and \$584 respectively. The 484/85/86 set's increase was \$62 while the 21004's was \$4 over the 2014 values.

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 for more information on how you can become one of the PCA's Contributing Editors. There is always room for more Contributing Editors.

This seems to be a year for trying to guess why some Lionel postwar pieces showed significant increases in the excellent values for some yet significant drops in values for others. One might conclude that there were a few sales, possibly on Internet sites or auctions, that has caused the increase in values this year.

My thoughts regarding American Flyer pieces are that the market is rebounding a bit since my initial tracking of values in the 2009 price guide. This is based on the fact that every item I track lost value since 2009 except for the 342 type A NKP switcher since 2009. It has either retained or increased its value during that time.



The 2015 Lionel and American flyer guides are available from Kalmbach Books, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI, 53186. They are listed on their website: <http://www.kalmbachstore.com>. Their listed prices are \$19.99 for the Lionel guide and \$15.99 for the American Flyer guide. Their U.S. toll free number is 800-533-6644 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The phone number if you are calling from Canada or outside the U.S. is 262-796-8776 Ext. 421.

The guides are listed on Amazon at \$15 and up for the Lionel guide and \$14 and up for the American Flyer guide. It took a bit but I found them listed on Barnes & Noble's website for around \$16 and \$14 for the Lionel guide and Flyer guide, respectively.

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Harriman VS. HILL, Wall Street's Great Railroad War, Larry Haeg, 375 pages, hardbound, 6 1/2 X 9 1/4 format, \$29.95. Published by University of Minnesota Press.

Greed, lies, deceit, misdirection, hatred, envy, incomprehensible wealth, and disregard for fellow man. This book has all of these in it and probably a few more adjectives that I may have missed.

You may be aware of the 1893 depression. The financial panic of 1907 and, of course, the stock market crash of 1929. What I was unaware of and probably many others was the near collapse of the stock market in May of 1901 when Edward Harriman, then head of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific went head to head with James J Hill, head of the Great Northern and part owner of the Northern Pacific independently decided that they also wanted the Northern Pacific in its entirety. Both desired the Northern Pacific as it would give them both a more complete path from the East coast to the West coast. What transpired between these two and their lieutenants caused the financial ruin of many as they effectively cornered the market for Northern Pacific shared. When that happened, the bottom fell out of many other railroad stocks that had climbed precipitously high.

The author includes a very brief bit of information on the eighteen primary individuals Dramatis Personae section at the beginning of the book. This information gives you a feel for how



Hell on Wheels, Wicked Towns along the Union Pacific Railroad, Dick Kreck, 265 pages, softbound, 6 X 9 format \$17.95. Published by Fulcrum Publishing. Black and white vintage photos throughout.

The primary title of this book struck my fancy as I was aware as to how the term hell on wheels was related to the building of the transcontinental railroad. It is my understanding that the phrase actually originated with the building of the transcontinental railroad and referred to the itinerant brothels, dance halls, saloons, and gambling houses that followed the Union Pacific railroad workers as they progressed towards Promontory, Utah. These "businesses" were bent on one thing, removing the money from the pockets of the railroad workers.

This book is not only a description of these very flimsy and transient "towns" but a general historical perspective starting with the early pioneers who traveled west in covered wagons.

The first two chapters describe the early wagon trains as well as the responsibilities/plight of women on the westward trek. The next chapters continue with the genesis of traveling by covered wagon to stagecoach, as well as the Indian issue. These first seven chapters conclude with the justification for "the grandest enterprise under God". I initially questioned the need for these chapters. Once I began reading chapters eight and on I realized that without the extensive prelude that the remaining chapters would not have been as relevant.

The following chapters describe in very precise detail the "towns" starting with mile marker 0.0 at Omaha, Nebraska to

each person is related to the others in the book. I found it quite helpful.

The author spares no ink in giving a highly detailed description of all the principles involved. It is almost that if one were walking down the street in 1901 and happened upon one of these people that they would be immediately recognized. He also is extremely detailed when relating the offices or workspaces that these people as well as others in the story habituated. No detail is left unnoted.

The story is completed, including an epilogue, in 293 pages. What follows three appendixes, notes, a bibliography, and an index. The bibliography is unique in that it lists not only books used in the research of the book but also newspapers.

This book is almost a "page turner". As I read it I wanted to keep reading to see what was going to happen next. If you are in any way interested in how Mr Harriman and Mr Hill cornered the market and nearly caused the first stock market crash then this book is for you.

Harriman VS. HILL, Wall Street's Great Railroad War is available from the University of Minnesota Press at www.upress.umn.edu. Their website also notes that most books are available in various E-book formats. I found the book available on Amazon's website in hardcover and Kindle format and on Barnes & Noble's website in hardcover and NOOK format.

Promontory, Utah. It is evident that the author has spent considerable research time on each "town" when he notes the number of gambling houses, dance halls – with provisions for personal assignments, and saloons.

There are also numerous vintage photos of the false-front tent "businesses" throughout these chapters to give one an idea as to the actual look of these "towns".

I always appreciate it when an author includes a bibliography at the end of a book. There are ten pages to the bibliography for this book. The entries are uniquely arranged based on whether they refer to a book, magazine articles and manuscripts as well as magazines and newspapers and libraries and museums. This definitely provides a lengthy list of possible additional reading material.

Mr. Kreck has written the story of a largely undocumented look at the more seemly side of the building of the Union Pacific railroad's part of the transcontinental in an easy to read style. I suggest you read this book if you are interested in this little documented aspect of the building of the transcontinental railroad.

Hell On Wheels can be purchased directly from Fulcrum Publishing at www.fulcrum-books.com. Barnes & Noble's website lists the book at \$13.53 as well as it in Nook format for \$10.99. The same prices are listed on Amazon's website for as low as \$8.65 in paperback it did not seem to be offered in Kindle format.

Olsen's Postwar Train Repair DB CD, Postwar Service Manual 1945-1969, CD. \$35. Published by Olsen Toy Train Parts. Windows 95, 98, NT compatible. Although not noted on the CD it is also compatible with Windows 7.

Upon opening the package with the CD I found instructions for installing the CD. The installation was easy as every step in the process was spelled out in nine instructional steps. The instructions are a bit dated as they did not address the added Windows 7 step of authorizing a program to be run by clicking Yes when prompted. The installation places an icon in the Start menu that you must use to start the program. It is also necessary to have the CD in the same drive you used when installing the program. There does not seem to be a means of starting the program directly from the CD.

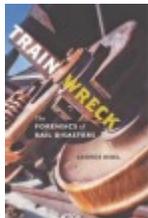
Clicking on the icon brings up a two pane home screen. The left pane is a Topic List of twelve topics. Some of these topics include locomotives, accessories, operating, and non-operating cars. Selecting any of the topics generates a numeric list of items in the right hand pane associated with that topic.

After selecting one of the numbered pieces in the right hand pane one can select to either "Search Parts" or "Preview Pics" by clicking either option in the lower right hand corner of the page. You can also double click on the item of your choice to be immediately navigated to the page or pages for that item.

The page initially comes up in a small format but merely clicking on the page expands it to full screen. When expanded, there is a set of options in the lower right hand corner of the view. These include zoom in, zoom out (only active if you zoom in again), walk-through, previous, next, main, print, fast quit, preview,

Train Wreck, **The Forensics of Rail Disasters**, George Bibel, 355 pages, hardback, 6 1/4 X 9 1/4 format, \$29.95. Published by Johns Hopkins, University Press,. Numerous charts and illustrations throughout.

Have you ever wondered just what exactly caused a specific train wreck? Have you ever wondered if a specific train wreck or similar wrecks could have been avoided? It is my belief that most people are curious as to the how and why a train wreck or even an automobile accident happened. This book details how various train wrecks involving either passenger trains, freight trains, or a combination of both occurred as well the underlying issues leading up to the wrecks.



There are seventeen train wrecks detailed in the book. Each is described in great detail. The reason for the wreck is also described in detail as well as how it may have possibly been averted. In some instances it is noted that it is human error that caused the wreck although, again, it could have been prevented.

The second chapter describes, per its title, How Trains Crash, Then and Now. It was interesting to read about how the mechanisms causing or reducing crashes changed as technology advanced

and search parts. Printed pages are 8 1/2 X 11 and were quite clear when I printed both a parts drawing page as well as a page that was strictly numeric. Printing a page with the parts you need would be an ideal way to ensure that purchased the correct parts at a show.

At the top of the Main screen is a search box. Entering an item number in this box after selecting something from the Topic List and pressing enter will display a list of items associated with that number.

Part searched are performed from an option on the Main page. No selections need to be made from the Topic List or the Related Items list. Clicking on the Search Parts button at the bottom of the page brings up a Show All Parts window where more granular searches can be performed. Searches can be made on a part number, or description. The searches I performed worked to my satisfaction. There are options to search on a specific manufacturer - Lionel, Noma, American Flyer, etc. but they are did not function with this CD as it is only for Postwar Lionel products.



I found the CD easy to use and see using it for parts references rather than trying to dig out my Greenberg or Aurotech manuals.

Olsen's Postwar Train Repair DB CD can be purchased from Olsen Toy Train Parts on their website at www.olsenstoy.com. Their address is 1281 Granger Ave, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. It also available from them on eBay as a Buy It Now. Their eBay selling name is toytrainparts.

There are chapters dedicated to passenger train collisions, freight train collisions, and runaway trains. A fact of which I did not know is that railroads actually have runaway train ramps similar to the runaway truck ramps seen on the downhill lanes of mountainous roads. An additional chapter also discusses a newer means of preventing crashes called Positive Train Control. There are also chapters on bearing failures, brake failures, broken rails, buckled rails, and gravity. All of the chapters are well illustrated with diagrams, charts, and photos where applicable. Although prevention of train wrecks involve sophisticated physics and geometry this book is written in such a manner that it was easily understandable to me.

There is a lengthy notes section at the end of the book as well as over thirty pages of references. The references look to be a fertile ground for future reading. There is also a five page index.

I am really surprised that even with all of the new safety measures that there are not more train wrecks after reading this book. If you are interested in the genesis of train wreck prevention I suggest this book.

Train Wreck, The Forensics of Rail Disasters can be purchased directly from Johns Hopkins University Press from their website at www.press.jhu.com as a hardback or an eBook. It is available as a hardback or kindle edition on Amazon's website. Barnes & Noble also offers it as a hardback or in Nook format.

THE VILLAGER CLASSIFIED ADS

Is your ad ending? Want to learn how to submit an ad? Check out the details on page 38.

WANTED

Ending February 2015

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 Ph. 631-281-7675 tsquare819@aol.com

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

Oil can rack for large or small Plasticville gas station. #14-847 Jim Falatek, 812 Stonybrook Dr, Norristown, PA 19403 jifalatek9876@verizon.net

BK-1 Bank side and front canopies, BN-1 Barn green weather-vane, PD-3 Police Station antenna and front lights #10-665 Henry Yesionek, 4009 Bublane Ct, Murrysville, PA 15668 yesionek2006@comcast.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ending May 2015

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

Dark Salmon Ranch House back wall. #01-16 Yvonne Flory, 415 E Monroe Ave, Orange CA 92867 floryk@yahoo.com

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

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 Ph. 724-744-3668 wrkidd2000@yahoo.com

Ending August 2015

Parts for Roadside Stand. I need the scale (in white) and the cupola roof (in gray). #09-603, Jason White, 6307 Lakewood Ave., Portage, IN 46368 or jwse30@yahoo.com

Plasticville O: Bungalow, corner store, hospital, police, used or glued do not have to be complete, block signals, traffic lights, mailboxes. K-Line convenience store factory. Littletown gas station. Plastic Village Gazette #10 or copy. Revell #1420 White Mobilgas truck kit. 14" long plastic gas tankers: Clark, CITGO, Sinclair, Union 76. #14-858 Dale Griebel, PO Box 6602, Sherwood AR 72124 Ph. 501-541-4508

Signal bride traffic lights and jewels. #11-723 Paul Lansing, 2194 Bayou Rd, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 Phone 941 637-4986 plansin@aol.com

Brown canopy, water tank & gray smokestack, water tank support, and water tank roof for 1096 Factory. #12-770 Mark David, 1210 W Daniel St, Champaign, IL 61821 Ph. 217- 351-1696 mbd1325@yahoo.com

Red floor jack for K-Line or Marx Gas Station, 2 chimney halves for Plasticville Colonial Mansion, antenna for Plasticville HO Police Station, siren for Plasticville HO Fire House, #10-628 Ken Honick, PO Box 515, Buena-Vista, PA 15018 Ph. 412-513 9748 genlee57@yahoo.com

Plasticville HO catalogs A, B, and D. These are not part of the O/S catalogs of the same year. #01-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 johnln@netins.net

Ending November 2015

Amloid gray, green roof houses. Littletown red roof ranch house, gray walled ranch house, littletown parts. Ranch house chimneys 2 green 2 white. Supermarket/Gas station side wall white, cape cod windows: red, green, cream side wall, red door LH hinge, chimneys yellow cream. #01-50 Joe Endicott, 13 Bradford Pl. Turnersville, NJ 08012. Ph. 856-534-8919 joe_endicott@comcast.net

Storytown "Old Woman in a Shoe" kit in Like New condition except for missing chimney and paper insert. Box is excellent

For Sale

Ending May 2015

Airport Hangar w/jet planes excellent +, box in VG 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 Ph. 216-631-6100

Ending August 2015

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

K-Line #4150-50 Coca-Cola General Store, new, unbuilt in box \$20 postpaid or trade for items in my Wanted ad. #14-858 Dale Griebel, PO Box 6602, Sherwood AR 72124 Ph. 501 541-4508

and all other pieces (including all nine figures) are present and in fine shape. Photos available on request. Asking \$75 or best offer. #01-24 John Gottcent, 3912 West Oregon Street, Evansville, IN 47720. Ph. 812-426-2989 or email jandjgott@gmail.com

Copy of Littletown "Builders Handbook" or any brochures, ads. Littletown boxes: gas station, super market or color copies of box covers. "K-Line" – convenience store, small street lights, factory, radar tower. "Plasticville" 'D' block signals, gas pimps, R.R.-X-signals, bungalow, corner store, trees, shrubs, empty boxes, especially small supermarket. Used Items OK. Dale Griebel #14-858 P.O. Box 6602 Sherwood AR, 72124, Ph. 501-541-4508.

Ending November 2015

Assorted Plasticville Littletown Storytown for sale. Send me your wants. Richard Sipes, 541 Sandy Valley Rd, White Haven, PA 18661 Ph. 570-751-8028 richsipes60@yahoo.com

No box, Yellow shades/Gray Diner \$5. NOS School House lights, large pin, postpaid \$10. NOS School House weathervane postpaid \$5. Near mint Plastic Village Gazette #3, postpaid \$5. Contact me before sending payment on all items. #00-3 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 10:00 AM-8:00 PM, Central time. johnln@netins.net

Littletown color "reproduction" window inserts on heavy card stock. Corner store: barber, drugs, ice cream, florist, jeweler, restaurant. Set \$ 6.00 ppd. General Store: bakery, butcher, hardware, 5&10, ladies wear, post office. Set \$6.00 ppd. Or pick and choose \$ 1.25 each ppd. Color box covers: ranch house, bungalow, corner store. \$2.00 each ppd. Dale Griebel #14-858 P.O. Box 6602 Sherwood AR, 72124, Ph. 501-541-4508.

The FREE PCA Classified Ads bring results!

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

Use your Classified Ad membership benefit and place a classified ad if you answered YES to any of the above questions. You can download the member classified ad form from the PCA website or send a letter requesting a form to PCA, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207. Classified ads run for four consecutive issues unless a change is made to the ad or notice is given to remove it.

The ads, up to 50 words, are free to members and contact information is not included in the word count. 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.)

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.

FOR TRADE

Ending February 2015

Small Plasticville parts: bought, sold, TRADED! Numerous 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

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.

Ending August 2015

Have big list 'O' diecast vehicles: trade for items in my Wanted ad - Plasticville, K-Line, Littletown, plastic gas tanker trucks. #14-858 Dale Griebel, PO Box 6602, Sherwood AR 72124 Ph. 501-541-4508

Ending November 2015

My Amlold red roof ranch house for your gray or green roof house. My littletown blue or green roof ranch house with yellow walls for your red roof ranch house. #01-50 Joe Endicott, 13 Bradford Pl. Turnersville, NJ 08012. Ph. 856-534-8919 joe_endicott@comcast.net

Looking for citizens molded in color (not flesh!) Willing to trade my doubles for yours. Contact me for a list of doubles and include yours. Matt Harvazinski, 43124 30TH ST W APT 124, Lancaster, CA 93536. villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

FUTURE TRAIN MEET DATES

YORK MEETS

2015: April 23-25, York, PA

2015: October 22-24, York, PA

CAL-STEWART MEETS

2015: March 22, San Ramon, CA

Send your information of future non-commercial meets to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org for free publication in this area TCA, LCCA, LOTS, and other non-commercial meet dates accepted.

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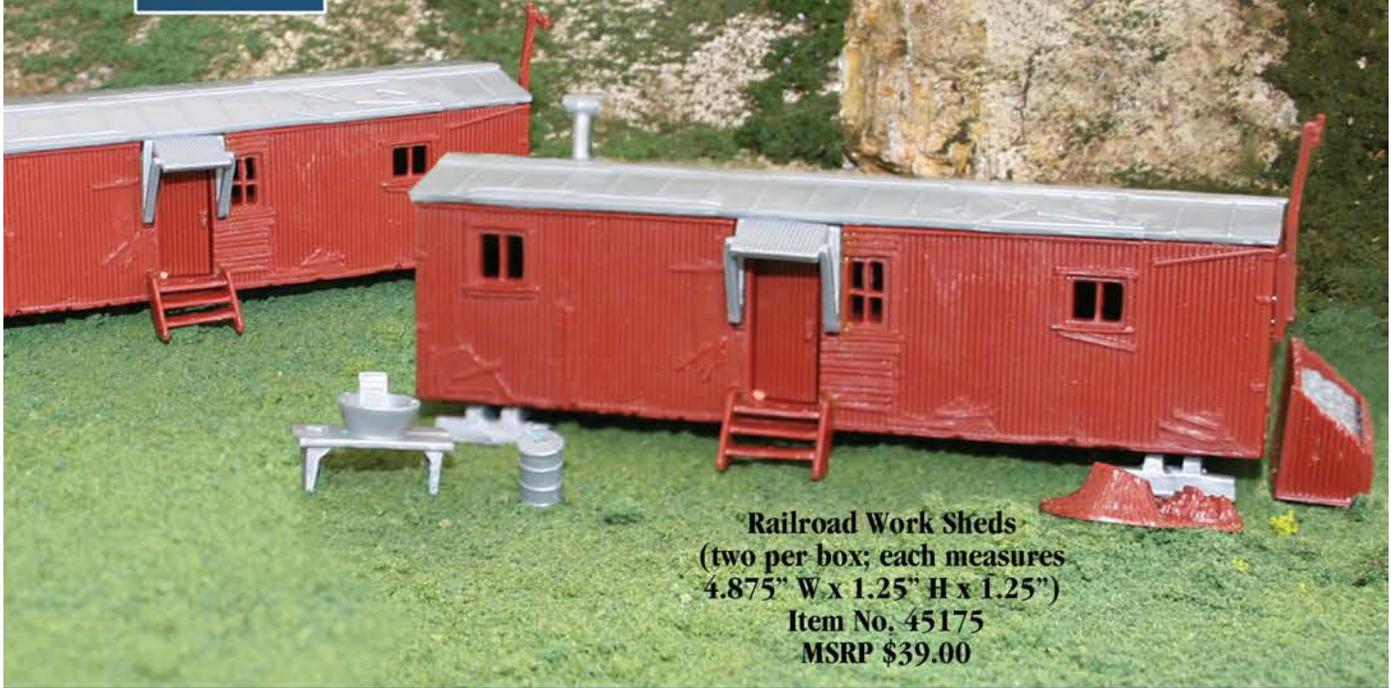
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