



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 14

November 2015

Number 4

RENEW YOUR PCA MEMBERSHIP AND RECEIVE A GIFT BE ONE OF THE FIRST 100 AND RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL GIFT

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

By now you should have received a dues renewal notice if your membership ends this year. It was mailed separately with a return addressed envelope and a membership level selection card.

We are offering to anyone who renews their membership before December 31, 2015 a special gift. It is an enlarged "Welcome to Plasticville" billboard insert. The insert is sized to fit the Lionel Collectors Club of America billboard frames. This insert will be given to anyone whose membership renewal return envelope is postmarked no later than December 31, 2015.

You will also receive the insert if you renew your dues through PayPal no later than December 31, 2015. There is a link in the Members section of the website that you can use to renew online.

There will be an additional, different, billboard insert sent to the first 100 members who renew their membership. It is also sized for the LCCA billboard frames. This insert is printed on both sides. One side has the "Welcome to Plasticville" billboard art. The other side illustrates a Divco truck, a taxi, and a police car in front of a Lionel 726 locomotive. This double sided insert was available only at the Lionel Collectors Club of America's 2015 convention in Boston this past July. Don't miss out on your opportunity to acquire not one, but two, very limited printing billboard inserts.

As an added incentive we will include a PCA pen to any current hardcopy member who renews their membership as an ePCA member. Keep in mind that if you convert to the ePCA membership level that you will not receive mailed newsletters although you will receive all other mailings.

CAST YOUR BALLOTS FOR 2016/2017 OFFICERS



THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

You should have received a separate mailing that included thumbnail biographies of the candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer as well as a ballot by now. We encourage all members to return their ballot.

We have even made it easier and more economical for your voice to be heard this election period. The ballot is a legal sized post card and the cost to mail it is only 35 cents. Merely fill in your member number and mark your choices on the ballot, add a 35

cent stamp, and drop it in any USPS drop box. Please mail your ballot so that it is received no later than December 31, 2015.

Your membership number is on the envelope in which you received the bios and ballot. It can also be found in the Members section of the PCA website under the PCA Membership Documents link. You may also email secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or call him at 515 771-6888 to obtain your member number.

Make sure your voice is heard. Cast your votes.

The Villager

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President: Doug Gilliatt

Vice President: Fred Ruby

Webmaster: John L. Niehaus

www.plasticvilleusa.org

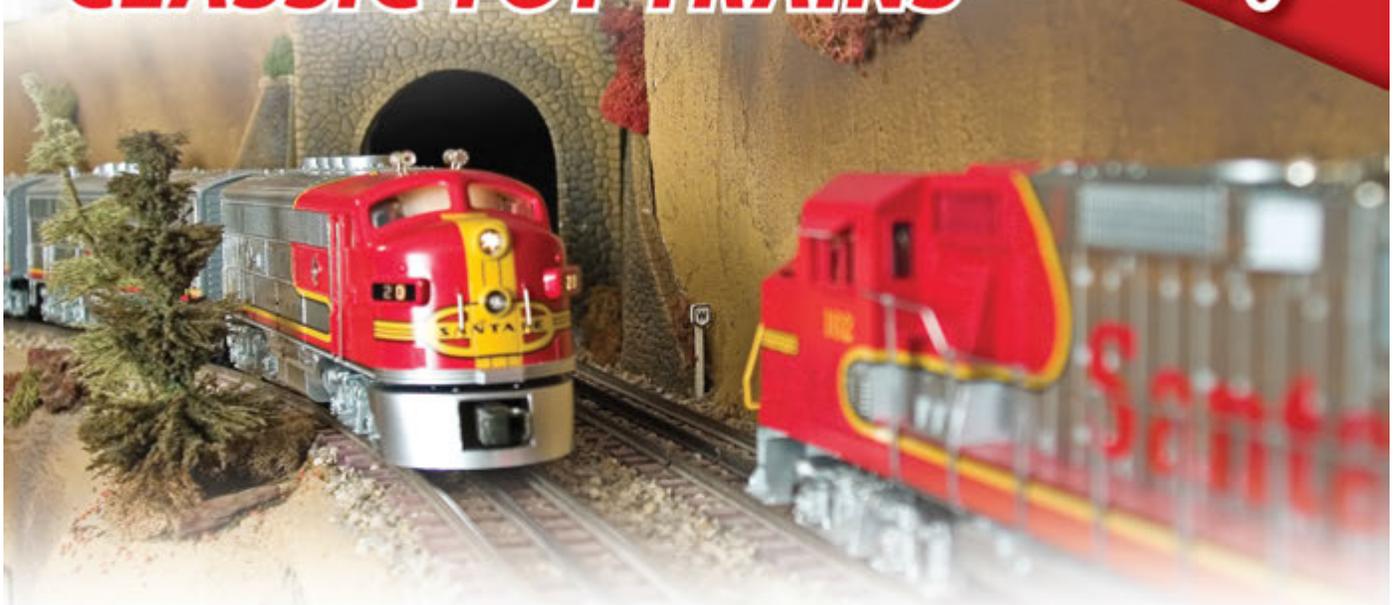
Secretary/Treasurer: John L. Niehaus

Newsletter Editor: Matthew Harvazinski

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Fall is in the air here in Northern AZ, which means our AC has been off for awhile (At least at night). We are looking forward to our first fall and winter here in our new home. My summer has been spent in putting back the shelves/cabinets etc that hold my train collection. The layout boards are still (sadly) sitting on the basement floor waiting to arise again. As I said this past spring getting a basement back is great so it is not all bad (grin)!

We had a guest for a day here in Prescott as a member of the PCA (Reg Henry) came down from the Grand Canyon to spend an afternoon with myself and Becky. I got to show off my basement collection and talk a bit about plans for the future. It was great to see a fellow member of the PCA and talk a bit about Plasticville and the PCA.

I did attend the "Beat the Heat" train show here in Prescott back in August and enjoyed looking at all the trains for sale, but really not a lot of Plasticville.

For the PCA members that attended the TCA National Convention this year in New York please (if you can) send in a report so it can be shared with the rest of the members in the next Villager on what was available and then we will know what we missed. Maybe a really rare piece was there and one of our lucky members picked it up?

And remember to mention the PCA as you attend Train shows or anywhere else train "nuts" are found. I include myself in the "nut" group.

I hope that all of our members and their families had a safe and happy summer and maybe finding a new item from a local garage sale/flea market or train show! So if you have bought something recently or received a gift or in the future pick up a

'goodie' and you believe that it would be of interest to all of us please write a short article and maybe a picture or two for publication in the Villager. If you do send a photo (preferably on a green background), send to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org and to webmaster@plasticvilleusa.org so that it can be placed on our website.

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

I continue to be very proud at the number of members that stepped up and contribute articles to be published in the Villager. And as I have said many times before please continue to contribute articles, stories or pictures that make the Villager the great publication as we are always looking for material. If you have not done so then please consider submitting an article or tip that would be of interest to our members. It is always with great interest that we all await the next issue to see what new things we can learn from fellow members. So everyone continue to support our organization by sending in articles/photos etc. of interest to our members.

A quick word on the upcoming officer elections for the PCA, I would be proud to continue to be the President however, we could use some new blood/ideas in the organization and it would be great if other members decided to step up to this position or others.

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

Doug Gilliatt, PCA President

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

I live in southern New Mexico, 2 miles from El Paso TX. There has not been a train show in this area in many years. This service (the parts bin) is a great help to complete some of my kits. It is rare to see any Plasticville in the collectable stores in this area. I joined the PCA in 2010 for the knowledge and dealer information in *The Villager*. The newsletter is worth a lot more than we pay for it!

Clint Baker #10-664



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VICE PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS



The first day of Fall begins tonight (early tomorrow morning) at 1:22 AM PDT here in Los Angeles. This is the time of year we all get busy making plans for the Holiday Layout (yeah, capitalized for emphasis in how important a contribution to our lives this really is). My columns frequently preach getting things ready, making lists of tasks, preparation, cleaning, oiling, greasing, drawing your layout, and on and on. I'm a project manager by profession and personality (did I hear you think "control freak" loudly? You are correct <sigh>).

But I have also been promising a second article on the module dioramas my partner Cindy and I display with the local S club. These are generally based on Plasticville buildings acquired for very few funds at local swap meets. They are re-imagined, repurposed, repainted, and re-used as Cindy wants. The first article was converting a CC-8 Church into a synagogue and the Plasticville Citizens' minister into an Orthodox rabbi. She had a blast doing the work, I had a blast writing the article. The second article is in this issue of the Villager.

But I can't lean on that article as my column. This time I'd like to mention the need to recruit new members into our hobby. The model railroad / toy train hobby is diminishing. Plasticville collecting, while an interest of its own, is strongly associated with trains. Lionel O / O-27, American Flyer S, HO and N trains (and road race sets!) all have Plasticville buildings and scenic accessories to enhance the appearance, the fun and the presentability of our main hobby. I understand many consider the Plasticville as their primary passion and MAY have trains or cars as the accessories. So be it, to each their own. But either way, we see the numbers of participants dropping.

To counter this will take a significant turn around in the interests of children and adults. Is it expected that our club has the capability to make a big difference on our own? Of course not, we are but 400 or so members.

But we are 400 plus members and if each member brought in just ONE new member to the Plasticville hobby each year, exposed a

child to the joy of setting up buildings and arranging a new town every time the trains came out; showed a child the fun of creating a new race course with the streets surrounding a new country village every time the HO cars are set up to race around the floor, we ignite the spirits to keep our grand heritage intact.

Get an adult (many Boomers are just starting or about to start their retirement) to try a train set of your favorite gauge with a few used or new Plasticville buildings as visual esthetics. Odds are you've got another ally in our hobbies.

Do you belong to a train club? Bring a stack of applications to the meetings to encourage the others (gals AS WELL AS the guys!) to join.

Does that club have open houses? Leave a stack of applications on the welcome table. Do you exhibit a portable or modular layout at shows? Leave a stack of applications with the other advertising at the front entrance and at your layout.

The Southern California S Gauge Club, here in the Los Angeles area, displays up to eight times a year at various venues as far north as Barstow and as far south as Costa Mesa. We've been to two NMRA Nationals (Anaheim and Sacramento) and an NASG National in Sacramento. I can't say the applications are at EVERY train show, but at most of the ones I attend with the club.

Cindy and I attended a medium sized regional meet in Sacramento over the weekend just past. I got up after dinner to address the gathering about the Los Angeles club's turn to host this event in May of next year. As I completed "selling" the crowd, the emcee, Don Rosa, a PCA member for many years, said I deserved a round of applause. "Afterall, it's not often we get a celebrity to attend our events. Fred is the VP of the Plasticville Collectors Club!"

WOW! Humbling and empowering at the same time. So you folks reading this can get involved with the PCA by writing articles (like mine later in this issue) or crafting a column (only four a year) or encouraging those you share the hobby with to join PCA, encouraging your guests at hobby events to join the PCA, sharing the hobby with an adult and with a child.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



It's dues renewal time again. You will only receive a renewal notice if your membership expires at the end of this year.

Membership is per calendar year so even if you joined during this year you will receive a renewal notice for next year. I hope that you will return your membership renewal before December 31 in order to be eligible to receive the limited quantity Welcome to Plasticville billboard insert sized for the LCCA billboard frames and remember if you are one of the first 100 members to renew you will also receive one of billboard inserts printed for distribution at the recent LCCA convention.

It looks as if we will not be placing orders for polo or t-shirts. The total pre-orders totaled 3 polo shirts and 1 t-shirt. Unfortunately, those numbers are well below the required minimum quantity.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! This year we have a good slate of contenders for both President and Vice-President. Please be sure to return your postcard ballot prior to December 31 of this year. I believe this ballot has the largest number of candidates in PCA history.

Does anyone know what has happened to PCA member Salvatore Cerchiaro of Pittsburgh? His August newsletter was returned to me with a Post Office notation that the address was vacant. I received an "out of service" response when I attempted to contact Salvatore by phone.

EDITOR'S COLUMN



There were several times this month I didn't think this issue would get done! It seemed like I had very little time to finish it up even though our contributors did a good job getting their material to me on time.

I am starting to receive a few short articles from members discussing projects and interesting items. I would really encourage more members to submit articles like this. Take a look at some of the examples in this issue and see what you can throw together.

Only three members submitted holiday layout photos. Please take some photos of your setup this year and send them in. I will hold on to all of the photos for the November 2016 issue.

The newsletter currently has 3 members writing regular articles about K-Line but no one writing material for O/S Plasticville, Littletown, or Kleeware. If you have knowledge about one of these topics I would be grateful if you offered to write some articles. You do not need to commit to a full four articles per year, occasional submissions would be welcome. I have authored a short article about an usual variation in this issue and hope to include more articles like this in future issues, but will soon run out of material!

Please feel free to submit any material via email or postal mail:

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org.

Matt Harvazinski, 4115 W. Ave. J7, Lancaster CA 93536.

OCTOBER 2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The October 2015 Executive Committee meeting was unable to be convened due to scheduling conflicts. The following minutes were presented by the Secretary to the Executive Committee via email and approved on the date noted below.

Old Business

Reordering t-shirts and a special order of polo shirts

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has received a total four shirt order forms and that the sum of all pre-ordered shirts stands at four. A motion was made seconded and unanimously approved to suspend ordering either type of shirt at this time.

Replacement lenses for the Signal Bridges, Turnpike Interchange, Block Signal, and Crossing Signal

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has again contacted Bachmann regarding the PCA purchasing replacement lenses. His contact person intimated that it was probably a "lost cause" to continue asking China for a special run of the parts.

Add "Ask the PCA a Question" email link on the Contacts page of the website

Secretary Niehaus reported that a link has been added on the Contacts page to allow sending a question to the PCA outside of a direct email to the listed officers.

New Business

Email issue with redesigned website

Secretary Niehaus reported that there has been issues with both members and non-members attempting to send emails and being prompted to "configure" Microsoft Outlook or Microsoft mail. He also reported that he has worked with the web developer to resolve this issue and that a stop gap measure is currently in place.

Search for new Internet Service provider

Secretary Niehaus reported that the current Internet service provider seems to be less than cooperative regarding moving the PCA's website content to a server running current software.

Tabled until the next Executive Committee meeting

Lack of the physical address of the PCA on the website

Secretary Niehaus reported that he had been contacted by a member informing him that there is no listing of the physical address or contact telephone number on the website.

Tabled until the next Executive Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus

Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, October 11, 2015

WHY DID THAT STUPID CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

DANIEL KLEINE #15-930

I cut the base off with a hobby knife and substituted a wire pin on the bottom to stabilize the birds on the layout. I repainted them to bring out, and highlight the details. The road kill was made by pressing the unfortunate bird with a warm soldering iron.

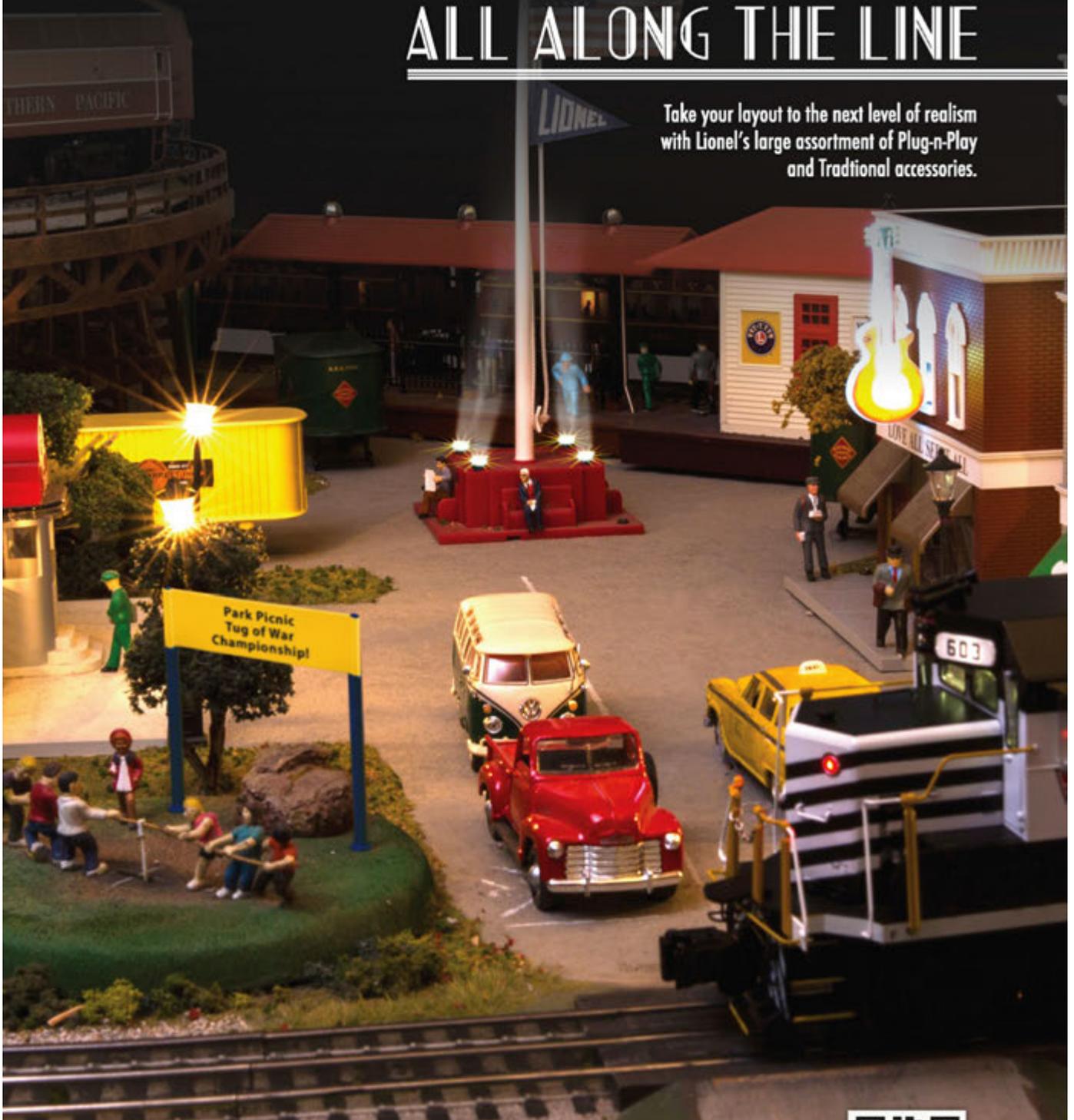
I picked these up at a swap meet and used the ducks on another part of my layout.



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TWINKLETOWN

TOM FRITSCH #01-4

A few years ago, I purchased a tin lithographed house that looked amazingly like the Plasticville Cape Cod House. This piqued my interest – was one a descendent of the other? So I did some research to uncover the story. I found very little reference to my tin house, but I found enough to tell the story.

My tin house was from a line known as “Twinkletown,” produced by H&H Sales and Manufacturing of Pittsburgh. Mine was one of five variations produced by the company. They had even numbered and named the five variations:



- No. 10 Vacation Cottage: White walls, red roof and trim
- No. 20 Oak Lodge: White walls, green roof and trim
- No. 30 Maple Bungalow: Yellow walls, red roof and trim
- No. 40 Hilltop House: Yellow walls, green roof and trim
- No. 50 Wayside Cabin: White walls, blue roof and trim

H&H Sales and Manufacturing Company was founded in 1889 as primarily a manufacturer of flashlights. One day, in 1943, Harry Hipwell, the son of the firm’s founder was taking his children for a walk, when they came upon a railroad engineer doing some maintenance on his locomotive. The engineer offered to take the kids for a ride in the cab of the locomotive, which made a lasting impression on both the kids and dad. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Hipwell designed a street lamp to go with his son’s Lionel trains. Eventually he added a girder bridge, a set of railroad signs, and five tin lithographed houses to his line.

The houses went by the name “Twinkletown” and came as kits with the walls and roof flattened out and requiring bending and assembly. They were identical stampings with variations in the wall and/or roof colors. The houses had a tab inside the wall, which held a small light socket. One 14-volt bulb was included in the box. The windows were cut out so that the light would shine through. The houses were made starting around 1945 with production ending in 1948. About 100,000 of these houses were sold in sets of five houses which retailed for about \$2.95.



This pretty much answers my question about the origins of my tin house, but why are the dimensions identical to a Plasticville Cape Cod House and its looks nearly identical?

Here is what I have uncovered about the history of the Plasticville Cape Cod:

A patent for a “Toy House” – a knockdown or collapsible type toy house – was applied for on September 11, 1948 by Albert George McNeill, Philadelphia, Pa., assignor to Bachmann Bros. Inc. Philadelphia, Pa., a corporation of Pennsylvania. The patent was granted on June 17, 1952 and given number



2,600,900. This patent was not for the plastic house itself, but provided for three specific aspects of the house: 1) for the method of joining the walls of that house together, 2) for the method of the roof being held in place by small plastic lugs sitting on top of the walls, thus preventing it from sliding off, and 3) for the notches in the roof sections that allow a chimney piece to sit in place. These methods were used on the Cape Cod House and Toy Church.

The Cape Cod House is believed to be one of the first structures that Bachmann made, circa 1948 or 1949. Its creation did not stem from a demand for buildings for the then expanding toy train boom, but was rather created simply as a toy for children. The original HP-8 box did not say “Plasticville” on it because, at the time, Bachmann had not developed this name to associate with their products. The first catalog under the “Plasticville U.S.A.” name, which apparently was copyrighted in 1949, came out in 1950.



So, H&H Manufacturing ceased production of its Twinkletown line in 1948, Bachmann applies for a patent for various aspects of the Cape Cod House (but not the house itself) in September of 1948, and the Cape Cod House was released in 1948 or 1949. Coincidence? It does seem rather fast that Bachmann developed an almost identical house in plastic that had been manufactured for about four years in tin. I found nothing that says why H&H stopped production in 1948. Did

Bachmann have a say in that? Had they been studying the house to see how it could be produced in plastic? A mystery remains.

Sources: Train Collectors Quarterly, Summer 1981, Virginia Train Collectors Newsletter, September 2009, and toyconnect.blogspot.com.

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This ad appears in the August 1955 issue of The Military Market

Although I am no longer your newsletter editor I thought that you may enjoy this ad that was sent to dealers informing them that there would be this ad in the August 1955 edition of The Military Market magazine. What is illustrated is what was sent to dealers. I have yet to find a copy of August, 1955 issue of The Military Market magazine. — John Niehaus

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 January 1, 2015.

- George C Watson, Dallas, TX
- James M Conroy, Jr, Revere, MA
- Robert H Dimitri, Forestdale, MA
- Douglas H Allen, Fall River, Nova Scotia
- Thomas R Taylor, Prescott Valley, AZ
- Charles E Madinger, Jr, Innsbrook, MO
- John L Provost, Mount Dora, FL
- Ronald J Demma, The Villages, FL
- Tom R Landis, Tylersport, PA

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of October 1, 2015. Their names are now permanently listed in the on-line roster.

- Jacob Munn, Flushing, NY
- John F Delaney, Weymouth, MA
- August E Heithaus, Westhampton, NY
- Richard A Brown, St Petersburg, FL
- Ray E Kerollis, Hamilton, NJ
- Daniel Kleine, Hobart, IN
- Colleen Woods, Sewickley, PA
- Nick A Incurvati, McKees Rocks, PA
- Clarence H.F. Barthold Jr, Slatington, PA
- Robert J Huppman, Brookhaven, PA
- Dennis J Stephen, Boyerstown, PA
- Richard T Perrott, Munster, IN
- Richard J Armstrong, Castine, ME
- Joseph T Zimmerman, Harrisburg, PA
- Robert J Ross, New Baltimore, NY
- Robert L Hammond, Grand Rapids, MI
- David L Henkel, Fort Myers, FL
- Michael A Trykowski, Rapid City, SD

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SECRETARY/TREASURER GIVES PLASTICVILLE PRESENTATION AT LIONEL COLLECTORS CLUB OF AMERICA CONVENTION

JOHN NIEHAUS #00-3

I was invited to conduct a seminar related to Plasticville at this year's LCCA convention in Boston by LCCA President Dennis DeVito at the April, 2014 York train meet. My initial reaction was to hold off on giving him an answer until I felt that I could create a reasonable presentation. I finally accepted his offer early this year.

The subject of my seminar was, *Plasticville: Its History and Rarities*. In addition to the slide presentation, various rarities were also available for viewing. These included various marbled pieces, a red roof Post Office, as well as a still in the original packaging HO built up ranch house. Most of my rarities are squirreled away so deep that even a squirrel would have difficulty finding them. PCA member Shirley Hunter, #02-83, provided all of the rarities on dis-



play. The seminar was attended by nearly 100 people based on my count of the door prize tickets that were distributed.

A gift from Bachmann was given to all as they entered the seminar room even if they did not stay to the seminar's conclusion. All PCA members who attended were given a PCA pen. Door prizes of t-shirts, coffee mugs, ball caps, and other items were awarded at the end of my presentation. Some of the coffee mugs and t-shirts were also provided by Bachmann.

Those who stayed until the end of the presentation and door prize distribution were given an additional gift. This was a specially printed double sided billboard insert, sized for the LCCA billboard frames, with the *Welcome to Plasticville* art printed on one side and artwork advertising Lionelville vehicles on the reverse. Each insert was in an envelope that also contained PCA information as well as a PCA application. I am uncertain as to how many new members were gained due to my presentation but I know that we gained at least three new members based on comments included with their applications.

DID YOU EVER NOTICE: 1907 APARTMENT HOUSE

MATT HARVAZINSKI #11-682

The 1907 apartment house is found almost exclusively with white roof which matches the door frame, roof access hatch, antennas, and first floor flower boxes. Bill Nole's *Classic Guide to Vintage "O" Plasticville* mentions a scare variation with a tan roof. I have come across only one of these and I believe that it is an extremely rare variation. So far as I can tell no photo of this kit exists in any book or on any online resource.

The tan roof included in the 1907 box is very different though. It is not a solid color but contains swirls/streaks of white. It is also a different shade of tan. When held up side by side with the roof from a 1963 apartment the difference is clear.



You may be thinking that you have seen lots of apartments with tan roof and you would be correct. The later reissue of the apartment in the 1963 box had red walls with a tan roof. The number #0500 version of the apartment by King distributors also had a tan roof for both the red and brown walled apartments.

In my opinion it is clear why a lot of these were not made. The tan roof on the 1907 looks a bit off since it does not match the wall or the trim color. It is also very unusual to have four colors associated with a single Plasticville building. Another possibility is that this roof came out of a batch while the factor was loading a new color into the machine and it slipped passed the quality control department.

If you have any additional information about this variation or own one yourself let me know at:

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org.

MEMBER LAYOUTS

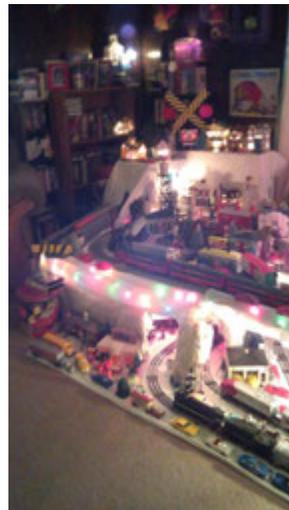


Chuck Neuman

#08-528



Jim Steed #01-55



Ken Honick

#10-628



THE YORK REPORT, OCTOBER 2015

JOHN NIEHAUS #00-3

There were two meetings this time. One was at what has become the customary 11:00AM, Friday meeting. Another one was held at 5:00PM, Friday. The second meeting was to accommodate those who had tables at the meet and could not leave them so early in the day. There were twenty seven people in attendance at the 11:00 AM meeting.

Jerry Clark showed a photo of a theater he had kitbashed from Plasticville parts.

Glenn Bowman passed around a 1401 Frosty Bar box with unique graphics. He also showed a 1502 Cape Cod box rubber stamped with BLUE. To top it off he also showed a dealer box of 48 packages of Bachmann birthday candle holders.

Don Huovinen showed a flashing billboard manufactured by Star Hobby and explained that it is very similar to those being sold now by Town & Country Hobbies.

Ray Scanland found and shared a Magic Mill kit that he had found at the opening of the meet. It should be noted that most of the Magic Mills are pre-assembled.

Anatol Vasiliev asked about the tree that was attached to a Royal Electric Christmas display wondering if it may have been made by Bachmann for Royal. He also showed a large sized box for the CU-1 Country Unit master set. He noted that all of the buildings in this box would have come in their own boxes but has yet to attempt to determine how they were packed.



Susan Shaw asked for verification that the white horses she brought were actually Bachmann. All four had the BB banner on their underbellies.

Tom Friesner purchased and shared a 1959 dealer display. This particular dealer display was offered in both 1959 catalogs.

Door prizes of the Plasticville catalog CD, donated by its author Bob Osterhoff, a King Plasticville Mobile Home donated by PCA member Bill Muller, as well as a few PCA pens and stylus pens were given as door prizes.

The 5:00 PM meeting was attended by a total of 13 members and guests. Due to the turnout we will try to again have a second meeting at this time at the April, 2016 meet.

Buddy Meade provided samples of the two orange signs for the Littletown Gas Station. Don Huovinen again displayed his Star Hobby flashing billboard.

Door prizes of a 2016 Greenberg's Lionel pocket price guide donated by Classic Toy Trains magazine, three Plasticville buildings donated by non-member Frank Fenstermaker who has numerous tables in the White hall, as well as some pens and stylus pens were given as door prizes.

Let's talk seller prices. I saw many of the same dealers with the same prices on their pieces that they have been bringing to the meet for over a year. One dealer offers a discount but even with the discount it seemed that his prices were still too high. There were some others who had very reasonable prices. I bought two of the red lettered Large Supermarkets for \$10 each. My opinion of all the prices that I saw leads me to give a rating of 3.5 gold bars. This was based on prices I saw in three of the four halls where dealers had large displays of Plasticville.



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



Future Train Shows

York

Cal Stewart

Apr. 14-16, 2016

Nov. 21-22, 2015

Oct. 20-22, 2016

Apr. 27-29, 2017

Oct. 19-21, 2017

Do you have information about other big shows? Submit them to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org to spread the word!

K-LINE: BOXES, BAGS, AND BLISTERPACKS

Box Type 4

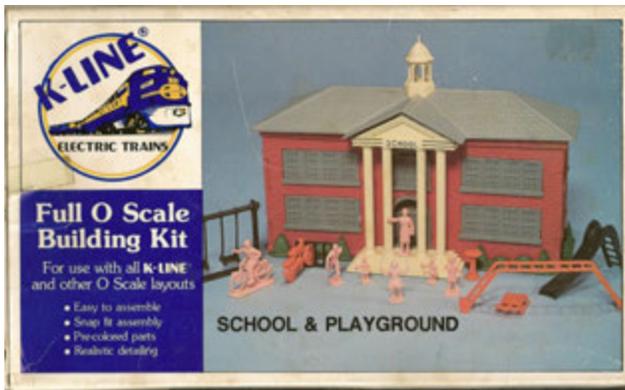
DONALD W. HUOVINEN #11-714



As noted in the previous article about Box 3, K-Line changed their logo to reflect the fact that they were now producing electric trains. Other than the logo change, there was no further reference to train sets. K-Line corrected this omission in what I am calling Box 4.

Box 4 is identical to Box 3 with one very important exception. In the lower left corner of the front of the box the text now reads, "For use with all K-LINE and other O Scale layouts". The dreaded "Lionel" is no longer mentioned. Although touting your own products is always a good idea, I believe it was less than successful in this case. In today's world of mass marketing of trains there is very little personal service. Customers make their own purchasing decisions based upon what they believe. For most people, all 3 rail O gauge trains are Lionel. When I operate my trains at our club's public functions everyone "knows" they are Lionel when in fact the locomotives are Williams and the cars may be a mixture of manufacturers. In the case of the K-Line buildings, if it doesn't say Lionel on the box, customers are not going to be assured they will work with Lionel trains. I suspect a number of sales were lost because of this. As we will see in future articles K-Line soon returned to mentioning Lionel when the wording was changed to read: "For use with all K-LINE, Lionel and other O Scale layouts"

Front



As stated previously Box 4 is identical to Box 3 except for the wording change however for the sake of completeness the highlights/details of the box are as follows. These are items that change as the boxes change:

- The box is one-piece box.
- The box has a white background.

- The newer round K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo is printed in the upper left corner of the front of the box. The locomotive is blue and yellow. This logo is the same as that appearing on the front cover of the 1987 catalog.
- 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 K-LINE and other O Scale layouts/Easy to assemble/Snap fit assembly/Pre-colored parts/Realistic detailing". There is no reference to Lionel.
- The illustration on the front of the box is printed and includes a description of the item but no item number.
- The right of the box is now printed with an illustration of the boxed item on the left two-thirds of the box. The item number and description are printed on the illustration. The newer K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo is on the right third of the box.

Right



- The left of the box has a small photo of K-LINEVILLE along with the newer K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS 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 newer K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo is on the left side.

Top



- The bottom of the box contains illustrations of the L-Shaped Ranch House, Figures with paint, and Animals with paint. The newer K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo is on the left side.

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





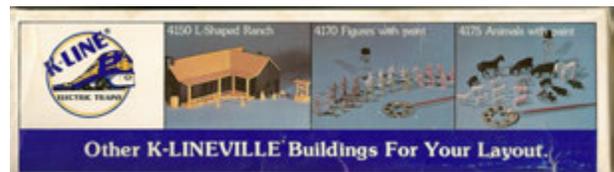
- The back of the box contains illustrations of twelve buildings different buildings under a blue banner with white text reading, "K-LINEVILLE O Scale Building Kits Make Your Layouts Fun and Realistic." with the same newer logo as on the top of the box in the upper left hand corner. *Back*

As always I welcome your , corrections or comments. This is a work in progress and if you are interested in K-Line buildings and wish to assist please e-mail me at dhuov@aol.com.

© 2015, Donald W. Huovinen



Bottom



Left

- There is no mention of a country of origin, therefore it can be assumed that these items were manufactured in the U.S.
- As previously stated, 12 buildings are illustrated on the back of the box. The church continues to be listed as 4110 Church even though the 4110 Church had been superseded by the 4111 Church in the 1983 catalog.
- The box is 10 1/2" x 6 1/4" x 3".



FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

Railroad Crossing Signals & Gates

RON SCHLICHT #02-109



You're looking through a junk box at a swap meet and low and behold near the bottom are some Plasticville parts. Someone must have dismantled a layout. Be it a model railroader or a dealer of trains, one of their least items of interest is **imperfect** PV "stuff". There they are, signal crossings and crossing gates. There is glue, scenery material, chips, nicks and other damage. This is junk to be discarded or sold to some sucker if you can find one. With very little work you can perform a combination of parts that may enhance your layout railroad crossings.

Crossing gate bases can be repaired or filed down in size to remove the damaged area. On the signal begin with removing that messed up base. Cut it off where post narrows down. Drill a hole (.109 dia. 9/64") in the top of a crossing gate. Insert the cut off signal and glue. The final touch is a little paint here and there. Everyone may have a different idea of how they want their crossing to look. Some may be a DaVinci and some might not be trusted with crayons. It doesn't matter it's your crossing gate. I use Testors silver for some parts. Even on the back where the part ejector bosses are I use red gloss to simulate reflectors.

In the event that the lenses are missing it's kind of like the dealers choice. Any .188 diameter stock can be used to make a lens. A wooden dowel with the end painted with red gloss paint will even due. Then again you can order replacement lenses. However I found another alternative. A red faceted 5mm rhinestone can be used. Some craft stores have them, Hobby Lobby for example. The ones that I purchased were labeled Glamour Glitz hot fix crystals. They are less than \$2.00 for 64 pieces. You may not be doing 32 crossing gates but can always give some to your granddaughter to



spruce up her sweatshirt. Apparently "glittering" is a popular form of fashion today. On the back of the crossing signal I used 1/4" furniture buttons to fill in the hole, the domed shape looked more like a light canister. You can use many other items like the top of a thumb tack to cover the hole.

One other item was used for the gate portion. Telephone poles are not a highly regarded collectable. Every once and a while you will run across telephone poles with some of insulators broken off. The ones that I had were either Marx or K-Line (like there is a difference). Let me preface the following instruction. I know nothing about real railroad equipment, but I like what I ended up with. I broke off some of the remaining insulators and placed them on the top of the gate portion to simulate the lights that might be on some crossing gates. Admittedly they don't light up but I don't care.



Some of you may have one of the old Marx crossing signals. I got one for Christmas one year (about 1950 or so) and still have it. It also had faceted rhinestones for simulated lights.

When finished, you have a Plasticville marriage made in PV heaven and a decent crossing signal. I don't know why Bachman didn't think of this. However in the event that you don't wish to do the drilling, filing, painting and spending a little more time, simply cut off a standard signal and super glue to the top of the crossing gate. You will still end up with an improved railroad crossing.

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CREATING A FUN THEMED BUILDING TO COMPLEMENT YOUR PLASTICVILLE

FRED RUBY #01-9

My partner, Cindy, wanted to build a factory of her own design, one to encourage whimsy and smiles when displayed. As the first article written described, this one is a self-contained diorama 24 inches long by 13.5 inches wide. Two of these scenes sit side by side on the 24 inch by 48 inch modules our local S club displays (not just a Flyer club, an S club because our membership incorporates toy trains like the Gilbert Frontiersman sets from 1959 into the early 1960s – Cindy’s favorites! - to full rivet-counter scale trains with Hi-Rail as the compromise.

Hi-Rail is running an American Flyer (or compatible) train with the taller flanges like AC Gilbert made, on scale-like tracks, but the rails are taller (Hi-Rail) to accommodate those oversized flanges. Gilbert type couplers are kept for compatibility, but often the cars and engines (especially American Models, S-Helper-Service, MTH, Des-Plaines Hobbies and many others) are made to scale specs with Gilbert compatible trucks, wheels and couplers. This wide variation of train appearance allows the use of scaled out wooden and resin-cast buildings as well as out of the box Plasticville. Although most of the Plasticville displayed is repainted, modified and enhanced. Like the article on converting the CC-8 to a synagogue done previously.

This time, Cindy wanted something not available anywhere else. The goal was to do it so that it wasn’t expensive and looked good with the Flyer stock and Hi-Rail, nor not bad with S scale trains running by. It had to be humorous to entertain visitors at display events. It had to reflect Cindy’s personality.

She wanted a factory that made cakes, but LOOKED like a cake itself! Okay, I’m the engineering type to her creative type so we discussed this one for a month before we worked out what we wanted to do.

I thought about how to get a building to look like a cake and SOUND like a factory. Then when shopping at the 99-cent Store (like Dollar Tree), I saw the solution: large sponges used to wash a car. Two of them went into the cart. I planned on slicing the sponges and gluing them to a cardboard box as the factory basis. Then I had a great idea: why not just use the sponges as they are? So we did. The pictures included show you the results. I will try to describe the steps with a minimum of pain to the readers.

Plan out your location and start thinking about what to use to decorate the final product. I knew we wanted to achieve a birthday cake final appearance, so “Cindy’s Cake Company” was hatched. What to use? Paint the sponges to look like chocolate cake; paint the top of the one going on top with a “crinkle finish” paint to look more like “frosting”. Contact lens cleaning canisters lids (any friends with contacts should have dozens of these available at any given time) to represent roof ventilator fans. Aluminum cigar tubes of various sizes were acquired by asking politely at the cigar store (maybe because Cindy’s so cute is why that worked so easily). A few orange grain-of-rice bulbs to be the

aircraft warning lights on the “chimneys”, a medium sized cardboard can from baking cocoa, a bit of nylon mesh screen, a small speaker and a sound module from ITT-Products at ittproducts.com, a truck found at a local meet, some small pallets found at another meet and several cars from the 99-cent Store. A bus, forklift and a few Plasticville signs and people plus the front doors and awning from a Plasticville (or was it Marx?) factory from local meets fulfilled our needs. Finally an illuminated on-off switch from allelectronics.com to turn the sound on and off.

Now don’t get the idea we had this ALL planned out before we started. We had the basics worked out, but as we built and painted and glued and decorated, we did a few more and a few more and a few more ideas to enhance this growing display, all captured in 13.5 by 24.

1. We use a street at the front of our dioramas to give cohesion to the appearance. It’s a stripe of black paint Pep Boys trim tape on the edges and down the center. I used a yard stick to measure and blacked out every other inch using a permanent marker to make the center line dashed-white. I started EVERY diorama on the left edge for uniformity.
2. Black paint as asphalt for the parking lot, driveway, etcetera.
3. Now you’re going to REAL work! Paint the sponge sides brown to look like chocolate cake
4. Paint the top of one sponge with “crinkle finish” paint. If you don’t find it in brown, no worries, just paint to match the sides (or another color!) to look like frosting.
5. Glue the two sponges, one on top of the other
6. Paint “layer filling” (a contrasting color) dripping down from the top of the bottom sponge (or the bottom of the top sponge!)
7. Decorate the sponge as desired with “Happy Birthday” or whatever is good for you.
8. The roof sign was printed on the PC and is in a Plasticville billboard frame all painted to match.
9. The contact cleaning canisters are painted pastel colors to represent “decorated cake flowers” on the “cake” / factory and glued to the roof.
10. The three smokestacks (same sized cigar tubes) are painted different colors to represent birthday candles.
11. A SMALL hole is hand drilled into the top of the cylinders to hold the grain-of-rice bulbs with a bit of super-glue. These are 12 or 14 volt incandescent lights from the local hobby shop that we run off a 9 volt power supply (allelectronics.com again). The same power supply also runs the sound board coming up in a few steps. A 12 or 14 V bulb

running at 9 V is bright enough to see in daylight, but only gets warm and should last a lifetime.

12. Three tubes of different sizes are painted different primary colors and labeled to be primary cake ingredients (eggs, flour, sugar).
13. The Cocoa can is painted chocolate brown and labeled CHOCOLATE. The sound board, speaker and on-off switch are all wired and fitted. The switch is pushed in from the back after a suitable hole is made in the canister, wires attached ahead of time! The wires turn off the 9 V going to the sound card.
14. The small speaker is wired in before the card drops into the canister also. A bit of hot glue or super-glue should hold the electronics in place. Cover with a small piece of scrap nylon screen (makes it harder to see inside while letting all the sound come out).
15. Getting close to done! A small flag is glued to look authentic, the factory front doors and awning is glued in place, people, cars, forklift, pallets are all glued in place.
16. Cindy carved some small pieces of scrap foam board and painted them pink to look like bakery boxes.
17. Street lights, signs other odds and ends are all attached.
18. Drop all wires through small holes in the bottom and all get wired in parallel so each gets 9 volts from the power supply. Attach all wires to a quick-disconnect plug (All Electronics has several varieties). I chose a two wire water-resistant, similar to a trailer plug so it could be used and re-used at events on a frequent basis. One end on the diorama, the mate on the power supply.

Questions? Send them to me at pca_vice_prez@yahoo.com and I will do my best, or get Cindy, to assist with a meaningful answer.



Top overview showing the general layout of the diorama. Note the dripping icing is painted the same as the awning and the roof greeting of "Happy Birthday". The small warning lights on top of the buildings stacks (tubes) don't quite show, but are there!



Front view. Shows cars and the bus, fire hydrant, street signs and lamps, benches and people.



Back view. Cindy wanted it to look good to us inside the layout as well as to the viewing public, Note the forklift and pallets on the right.



Audience right side.



Detail of the tubes holding cake ingredients. Notice the screw on caps differ from the tube main color just because, although we made them all primary colors.



Top view from the audience left end. Like the center line stripes? Easy-peasy!

K-LINE KRONICLES

Colors

ED BERG #02-123



When Maury Klein bought nearly all the tooling for the old Marxville line of plastic buildings figures, and accessories and began to produce his line under the K-Line banner some of those first offerings were in the same colors Marx used for their line and this can make things confusing for the novice collector.

Buildings

Fire House: Marx's Fire House came with red walls and a gray roof and trim. They also had a version with gray walls with a red roof and trim but which only came in selected train sets and wasn't available as a separate sale item. K-line produced their first Fire House in the same red walls and gray trim combination. The photos below don't do the buildings justice, but the reds are identical while the K-Line gray is darker.



Marx

K-line

Super Market: The Marx Supermarket and General Store had several color combinations, the K-Line red walls with cream trim was a copy of Marx's. No it's not different photos of the same building. Both are original boxed versions from Marx and K-Line respectively and are a perfect match.



Marx

K-line

Diner: Like the Supermarket and General Store, the Marx Diner was available in several color combinations but K-Line copied the silver walls with red roof and trim version. K-Line replaced the "Marxville Diner" sign on the roof with their own sign. The Marx diner can be compared to the shiny stainless steel of a new diner with a distinct 'swirl' in the plastic, while the K-Line silver is the dull and muted gray of a time-worn patina.



Marx

K-line

Ranch House: The K-Line L-Shaped Ranch House was a direct copy of Marx's brown walls with yellow roof and trim scheme.

Figures & Accessories

Figures: The figures included in the "Marxville" line of plastic buildings came in a variety of colors and sizes, but their core group, those which are most associated with Marx trains were 35 mm cream soft plastic. The 35 mm figures included with K-Line buildings were cast in hard plastic in a variety of colors. Earlier K-Line people are unpainted hard plastic and molded in dark red, dark blue, pink (or beige). Later offerings are painted in great detail.



Marx



K-line

Board Fence: The ubiquitous board fence came in white and brown for Marx and only white for K-Line. Early K-Line board fence was made in the same hard plastic as Marx and is nearly indistinguishable (if anything, it might be distinguished by excess flash on the molded pieces). Here's a common appearance of Marx fence showing considerable discoloration and aging – but occasionally one finds them in pristine white hard styrene plastic. The fence next to the ranch house is brand new white fence from K-Line which was molded in a soft plastic.



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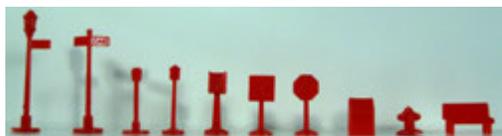
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Fire House/Police Station Accessories: The Police & Fire Station Accessories (Marx #PL 543 Mold Group) came in a couple of colors but K-Line copied it in red.



Marx



K-line

Airport Accessories: Both Marx and K-Line molded their airport accessories in a silver hard plastic. The K-Line version tended to be more on the gray.



Marx



K-line

Sorting it out

If you're just starting to collect K-Line it can be a little daunting trying to determine what colors were original Marx and what K-Line were. This comes into play especially during those times when you get a box full of parts as often times happens to us or kits made up of an amalgam of pieces.

For those buildings which share the same colors as their Marx progenitors there are sometimes slight variations. At times it can be found in the surface of the plastic. As a general rule, Marx buildings are shinier and can be compared to a high-gloss paint finish, whereas the plastic for the K-Line buildings is duller and can be compared to a satin paint finish. The Fire House is a good example. Nearly every K-Line sample I had was a bit duller than the Marx counterpart.

It's often times difficult to view a K-Line building on its own and say whether or not it's K-Line or Marx. Just looking for the K-Line logo may not help as it is not always present, nor is it always present in Marx products! Sometimes the only difference in color is a swirl effect found in Marx buildings which K-Line



Marx

K-line

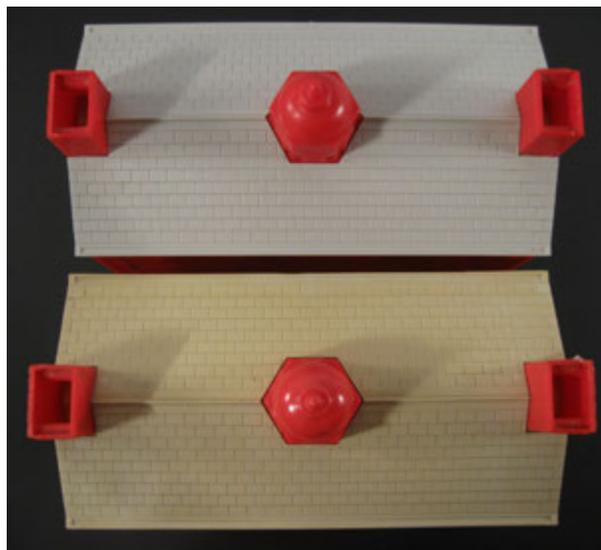
products didn't appear to exhibit. In both companies, certain colors change over time.

Marx vs. K-Line

1. The K-Line brown is more of a milk chocolate color vs. dark brown for the Marx.
2. The K-Line yellow is a bright banana yellow vs. a yellowish-green for the Marx.
3. The K-Line red is a bright red vs. a dark red for the Marx.
4. Wherever shrubbery is present (houses, diner, school house, etc) the Marx shrubbery is a light green, K-Line, a dark green.

Discoloration:

Like Marx, the K-Line gray colored plastic sometimes discolors to a sort of cream color as seen in this photo:



I used to think this was an actual, separate color variation until I came upon a gray part in which both colors were present and it was easy to discern the aging process in action. The whites also discolor to a cream color.

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ALONG THE OTHER LINE - THE K-LINE

K-4132 Barn and Chicken Coop

BY KEN HONICK #10-628



Hello to all my fellow PCA members and train buffs out there. I hope everyone had a great summer, I know I did. June and half of July were kind of a wash out here in Western PA, but it shaped up to be a nice summer. Now that the leaves are starting to turn to all the wonderful fall colors. I hit the Greenburg train show in early July when it was in town. I found a few nice things, there were tons of neat train stuff.

I'm Sorry that I missed a couple of newsletters issues but it was a very busy summer. In this article I am going to feature two K-Line Christmas rolling stock cars and two die cast 1:43 cars. First I found what I think is a rare Christmas caboose that I found at the Greenburg train show.

It is a K-Line K-6172 Christmas Caboose. It is a very handsome caboose, center look-out, black stove pipe behind the look-out, red and green look-out. The body of the caboose is red with white sides covering most of the side walls



adorned with a very nice snow flake photo. It also has Christmas bulbs hanging on a few evergreen branches which look like holly berries, a black undercarriage, black trucks, and couplers with a chrome ladder. There is a very nice brake wheel on the other side. The white wraps around the whole caboose, it is very well done.

I have not had it out of the box until now. I am going to make up a Christmas train with a nice blue & silver Santa Fe engine. The



other car is a Christmas box car, red, green & white with a holiday banner "Seasons Greetings" on one side and "K-Line Electric Trains" on the other side. The scenes are very well done, it will be a very nice addition to my Christmas layout. The year 1993

is printed on the cargo door. It is a 1993 Christmas box car, but I found it at a hard to find space at a local train shop that I visit on a regular basis.

For the die cast cars that I am going to feature, one is a red and white '57 Ford Ranchero. The detail is amazing, chrome trim, two mirrors on the front fenders, hub caps that look the same as the real thing. Chrome grille both bumpers. Frenched headlights, I mean K-Line got it right on the money. I got it at the same train shop that I found the 1993 Christmas box car.



I snapped it up, it is very well done, I know the features well because I had a '56 Ford Fairlane when I was in high school in the mid '70s. It was a two-tone blue and white with lots of the same features as the '57 Ford Ranchero. It looks great on my Christmas train layout. The next die cast car is 1970 Olds Cutless Oldsmobile 442. It has great features also. I had three Olds Cutlesses that I restored, but I never had a convertible, not yet anyway. I love all hot rods, rat rods and classic cars, they are my other passion. This Cutless is yellow with wide black racing

stripes on the hood, nice stripes on both sides, red & tan interior. Its just so detailed its amazing. Not only did K-Line make handsome trains, handsome o-gauge buildings, their 1:43 scale die cast cars and trucks are awesome. That is why whenever I see them I snap them up. I have some other K-Line die cast cars, but these are the only ones that I have access to at this time.



I hope everyone enjoyed the article, I kind of put it together in a rush, still up to my neck in work, but I wanted to get something in the next newsletter. Best wishes to everyone, happy railroading, hope to see you in a future PCA newsletter.



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1611 Hardware & Pharmacy, tough box number \$50	ON-5 Outdoor Necessities \$60
1809 Loading Platform, Mint \$20	1624 House Under Construction, Lt grey \$40
1908 Split Level House, Mint \$25	AD-4 Air Admin Bldg, Mint \$50
0600 Windmill KING MT \$30	45985 LCCA Air Terminal, \$22 Sealed
45986 LCCA Hangar, \$20 Sealed	1627 Hobo Shacks, \$75
PO-1 Post Office, \$25	1405 RR & Street Signs, \$20
5010 Storytown Castle w/rhyme sheet \$85	HF-2 Dealer box of 12 Fence boxes, \$150

No Box Kits, Complete

Railroad Work Car \$10, SUB Station \$8, Barn \$8, Motel \$8, HOBO SHACKS \$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, Fire Department, Grey Siren, \$45

Accessories

1050 Outhouse (brown) \$4 ea, Pickup Truck \$6, Telephone Booth w/3 BLUE Shrubs, \$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 (green only) \$5 ea, Ambulance (green & Yellow) \$5 ea, WHITE SHRUBS 10/\$25,
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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 Street Lights, \$25; #304 fence \$15

KING PLASTICVILLE – Covered Bridge (grey roof) Mint \$20

KING PLASTICVILLE ERTL TRACTOR TRAILER WITH BANK - \$15

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ALONG THE HO LINE

Bachmann Tunnel Sets #2331 Scenic Tunnel

DOMINIC ST. JOHN #02-153



Hello everyone, I'd like to offer a new item for this issue of the Villager. It is something very different from what I usually write about. Practically every article I've written has referenced Plasticville HO Houses and or Railroad Building kits and that which is related to them. This kit is more an accessory than it is anything related to the HO buildings. After doing a lengthy search, through a number of catalogs, I was finally able to find it in a later issue of a Dealer catalog. It is also a much newer piece than what I usually cover. Fortunately I have a number of later year Bachmann catalogs and that proved to be a big help with the making of this article.



Now before I continue with the Tunnel, I would like to preview some topics that hope to cover in the future. For those of you who have read my articles over the years, you should already know what it is that drives me. To those who are new, and haven't seen my earlier writings, I'll tell you what that is. My quest for finding the next color is one of my passions. A color on a kit that I haven't seen before makes me giddy! Finding variations and oddities is another thing that keeps my interest in Plasticville HO, well interesting! So, I'm hoping that some of my latest finds will allow me to cover both criteria in my next edition of Along the HO Line.

Now, let's get back to the Tunnel. This kit is the result of another one of my eBay mining expeditions. You know me; I'm always looking for that next piece. Not just for me but also to find new ideas for Plasticville HO articles. So, during one of my usual nightly searches for anything related to Plasticville HO, I came across a listing for this Bachmann #2331 Scenic Tunnel. What I saw, while staring at my computer screen, was a simple three piece, made of Styrofoam, straight tunnel that was painted in appropriate earthy colors and boxed in a plain nondescript cardboard box. I was pretty sure I had stumbled upon something new to me. Something I didn't already have in my collection. The box was unusual, but it was the tunnel that I wanted and went

after. So, I went through my usual eBay moves. I bid, I won and I paid. All that was left to do was wait for the Mailman.

Sometime after the Tunnel Kit arrived, and for an unrelated reason, I needed to go through one of the closets where part of my collection is stored. Among the HO trains and HO Plasticville another #2331 Scenic Tunnel kit was found. As it turns out, I actually did have this kit already. When I dug out that first Tunnel kit, the one I found in my closet, it was apparent to me that the packaging for that one was quite different from the packaging of this newer one. I was taken by the fact that my first kit was packaged in a most common type box with a color illustration of the Tunnel and descriptive writing telling me everything about the contents of the box. It was the "Fully Decorated Scenic Tunnel" It also had "for use with all HO & N scale layouts" under the main title. On the end of the box and in small lettering was the Item No. 2331. As I mentioned in a previous paragraph this later kit, and the one I'm writing about here, came packed in a nondescript plain cardboard box with no means to know what was inside. With the two kits now side by side I was able to compare them looking for any differences. Aside from their respective boxes being totally different from one another both of the tunnels were identical. With them being the same I was left wondering why they would be in different boxes. That plain box had my interest now.



Knowing how Bachmann packaged their kits in such highly decorated packaging and with plenty of descriptive graphics on all sides, I had to assume this was probably not the original box. There was nothing on the outside telling you what was inside. Not until you opened it did you have anything with any identifying information. Of course, I was expecting there to be a Tunnel inside. Images of said contents were included in the eBay listing. I wasn't surprised when I opened the box and found sitting snugly inside was a three piece Styrofoam Tunnel kit and a small folded sheet of paper. Unfolding the sheet of paper it was shown to be the directions for assembly printed both in English and French as well as #2331 the item number of the kit. So I got just what I expected.

Now, the way the kit fit inside the box was perfect. Snug as a bug so to say. There was no room for it to move at all. Just as if the box was made for that tunnel! Okay, maybe it did indeed belong in that box. I had to find out and the only way for me to do that was to go to the catalogs.



When I add to my collection the first thing I like to do is to search through my catalogs. Most times I am successful. The earlier kits are not hard to find and I have most of the early catalogs to use for reference. Leafing page after page, through those early books, resulted in no success. So I went looking in my later catalogs. I started with a 1972 catalog as it was the next one in progression after my early ones. Nothing was found there so I looked in a 1974 catalog. Again no luck so I continued to a small 1975 catalog. Still no results, but when I looked in a small 1976 catalog I found two items that came closest to this kit. Found there was the Plasticville U.S.A. tunnel and portals. There was a 2926 Tunnel and a 2927 Portal. The tunnels were described as being assembled from 10 snap together pieces. Obviously they were made of plastic and are not made of Styrofoam that the 2331 Tunnel is. I still haven't found the 2331 yet so I kept looking. I went to a large 1979 catalog and found nothing. My next catalog was a 1980 and in there I did find a "new and exclusive 1442 Operating Tunnel and Waterfall. It is another tunnel kit, close but no Cigar.



I don't have a 1981 or 1982 catalog so I go to a 1983 catalog. The items numbers in the 1983 book have changed to the number 46 preceding a four digit number. I'm thinking the 2331 number must be in the two years I don't have. I'm afraid I won't find it now. I keep turning the pages anyway as there is still a lot to look at. In what eventually turns out to be a Dealer catalog and after getting past the pages of HO train sets I come across a section with two pages under the heading "Landscaping Department". There was a sub heading on another page with "Tunnels" over the images of four different kits listed. Sure enough there is a 46-2331 3pc 10" Tunnel kit for \$3.00. There is also a 46-2332 4pc 14" Tunnel kit for \$4.50 and a 46-2333 6pc 26' Tunnel kit for \$7.00. The 46-2331 is the same kit as my initial find that I pulled from the closet. It's in a nice colorful box just like mine is. There

is still one more kit listed. It is a 46-2350 42 pc Tunnel Assortment for the lofty sum of \$168.00!!



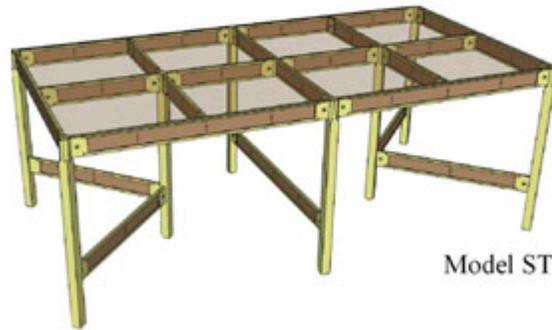
So now I think I have the answer for the plain cardboard box. The 2331 kit, I am writing about, may have been included in this 46-2350 Tunnel Assortment. It could have been boxed separately and packed along with other tunnels in the 46-2350 Tunnel Assortment kit. With 42 pieces in the Assortment there must have been more than one tunnel included. Maybe if I can add the 1981 and 1982 catalogs to my collection, I will find more information. Until then I will go with my theory and pass it along to the PCA. Any input would be greatly appreciated and happily encouraged. Thanks all and till the next time.

MIANNE

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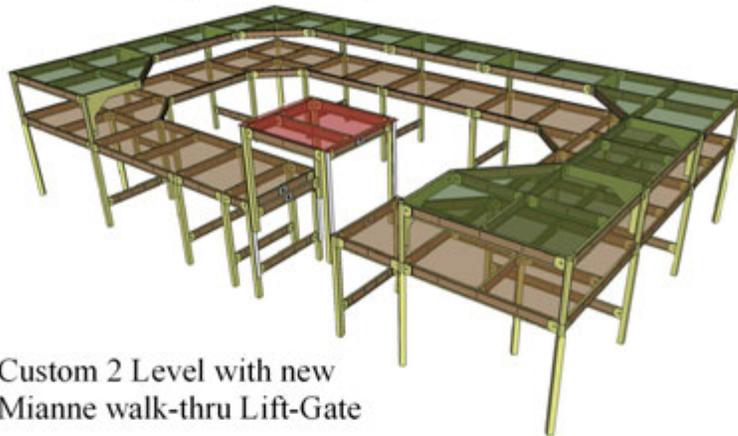
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CREATIVE USE OF DAMAGED PARTS

Two Story Post Office Building: Part IV

EDWARD L. JOHNSON #05-380



The Post Office model has been completed. The detailed interiors are lighted with LEDs. There is a sidewalk which wraps around the front, side, and back of the building. The sidewalk is from a German manufacturer called Heki. That company manufactures foam sidewalk models but this item is no longer made. I've had these sidewalk items squirreled away for a long time so it was time to use it. The Post Office is located in *Metropolis*. The name is taken from the futuristic movie *Metropolis* which debuted in March 1927 hence the 31927 zip code. The model is called the *Pommerlang Building*. Its name is derived from *Erich Pommer* who produced the movie and *Fritz Lang* who directed it. The front of the completed building is shown below.



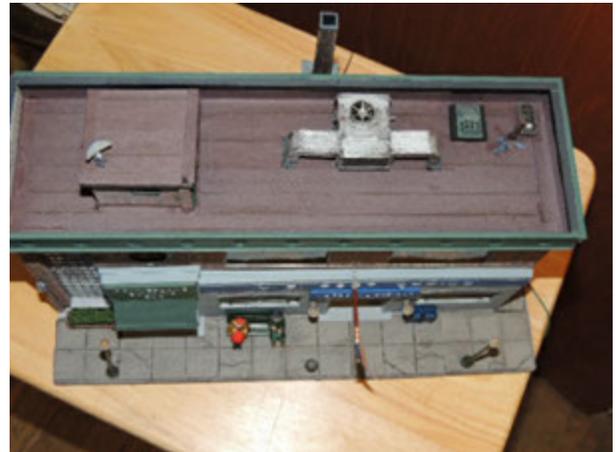
The next photo shows the back of the Post Office. The chimney conceals the wiring for the nine LEDs that light the building.



The side is shown in the next photo. The sidewalk wraps around and connects the front and back. The other side which is not shown is just a blank wall. If the building is placed on a layout another building would go against that side.



The photo below shows the details of the roof. The building has an elevator. The operating machinery is housed in the small structure. On the roof of the structure is a satellite dish it is from a *Warhammer* model. The air conditioner unit is made with card stock and miscellaneous parts from the "parts box". Next to it is a skylight which doubles as a roof hatch. Then there is the skylight/ vent for the bathroom. If you look closely there is the wreckage of someone's model airplane.



Below is a close-up of the front to show the chandelier that hangs in the lobby. The chandelier is lighted with an LED. It is made with "street trash", that is things I find in the street. A plastic bauble was drilled out and the LED inserted into it.



Well fellow travelers I hope you enjoyed this series of articles.

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PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 206

The Homes

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154



Plasticville residential boxed sets consisted of homes which were typical of a post World War II suburban neighborhood. Neatly planned streets were suggested by including fences, lamp posts, and phone poles. An impression of warmth was provided by including lawn features such as a barbecue, trees and shrubs. And, during the transition years of boxed sets, the assortments were also animated by including citizens, automobiles, and billboards. Those three groups of components served to increase the family play value of the sets, and therefore served to elevate their shelf appeal.

Because the early house unit boxed sets were remarkably different than all subsequent set boxes, several house units have already been discussed in chapter "102, The Early Sets". But, in 1952 the house units began using the typical medium size lift off box. The shopping units had been the progenitor of that set box size, which by luck or design, also accommodated two ranch houses with roofs set horizontally or two Cape cods with roofs set in vertically. This is not the only time a box size seems to have been created to fit a structure not yet produced.

The House Unit (HU-7), cataloged in 1952, was the first residential boxed set to be packaged in that medium size letter era box. It's color was bright red. The set consisted of four houses: a brown/black, red roof Bermuda rancher, 1951, a white, blue roof Bermuda rancher, 1951, and two white Cape Cod houses, one of brown and one of green roofs, year of issue undetermined. The Cape Cod windows and doors will be most likely be red, mainly because those walls were plentiful. Cape Cods of grey, yellow, or blues would not have been color combinations in the HU-7. The set was detailed with three Maple trees, two spruce trees, two glow in the dark street lights... all attributed to 1950, all in the most common shade of green; and, four medium brown phone poles with diagonal braces, in addition there was a marbled outdoor barbecue.

The House Unit (HU-7) box art was a rendering of contents set on a medium green lawn under a blank sky. No shadows indicated a light source. The house colors were incorrect, otherwise the picture represents an accurate scene. This letterboxed scene was superimposed over a corner forward sketch of the same neighborhood which had colorfully been depicted on the Community Unit's smaller lift off box. The sketch was updated. A fire house, a gas station, a train station and a barn were added to that original scene. This sketch would continue to be updated into the number era boxes. Two secondary slogans, "ANY CHILD CAN EASILY ASSEMBLE THESE UNITS", and "ALL OF THESE UNITS ARE BUILT TO SCALE FOR MINIATURE RAILROADS", were offset to the lower right of the letterboxed picture. Lower still, the primary slogan, "Built by YOUNG AMERICA", was drop down tabulated from the herald above the picture. The icon of the boy in a circle assembling a Cape Cod is niched alongside, in the lower right hand corner. And at the bottom edge was a line item listing of the set's contents. The set

name and designation appeared at the extreme top right corner, from which the herald, "PLASTICVILLE U.S.A.", along with the primary slogan, "THE TOWN THAT GROWS AND GROWS" was offset a bit to the left. Most notably, "copyright 1949", which had appeared under the herald of the Shopping Unit (SU-4), 1950, was replaced with "Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.". Also, "PATENT APPLIED FOR", is stated on each long side panel.

Copyrights are issued by the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress; it protects forms of expression rather than subject matter (for instance anybody can write a whaling boat story, just not the way Moby Dick is expressed.) Patents are registered with the Patent and Trademark Office; it awards the right to exclude others from making, using, selling, or importing the invention.

Bachmann Industries had been a producer of plastic household items which were commonly sold by 5&10 stores like Woolworths. For the first time they were about to go head to head with such giants in the toy industry as Marx Marlines. Bachmann's intellectual property would have been at risk. Bachmann's executive intentions could have been reported to outsiders. Bachmann Industries was rightfully careful of their PLASTICVILLE U.S.A. when they elected to proceed immediately with the less forceful copyright protection. All the while their early red white and blue box for the toy church (CC-7) and the play art style box for the small supermarket, had no such protection, yet PLASTICVILLE U.S.A. was printed of them both. To suppose a clue, it just might be that Build a House, Build a Church, the small supermarket and others are of the year 1948 and earlier, and Christmas Fence and the picket fence in the plain brown dealer box are earlier still.

The HU-7's contents were neatly separated by six trays. Two large trays measuring 5 1/2" x 10" and two smaller trays measuring 5 1/2" x 3 1/2" held the houses. In between these two trays was a 3 7/8" x 6 1/2" tray to accommodate the phone poles. The remaining space 3 7/8" x 4 1/2" was a tray about the size of trees. These trays were of a heavier cardstock than the subsequent residential sets.



Residential Unit (HU-5) cataloged in 1954, was a set which typifies "the town that grows and grows". The new homes for 1954 displaced the two other redundant houses. The set consisted of a two story colonial house, 1954, a New England rancher, 1954, a Bermuda rancher, 1951, and a cape Cod house, year of issue undetermined. The set was sparsely accented by four medium brown phone poles with diagonal braces, one green and one white billboard with monochromatic ads, two boulevard lamps, and six shrubs, all attributed to 1950. Differences in color combinations from set to set may be encountered and still be original to the set.

Residential Unit (HU-5) was packaged in a marshmellow peach box, having the same basic characteristics of the HU-7 box. The box graphics were like the HU-7, however the slogan, "THE TOWN THAT GROWS AND GROWS", was replaced with, "THE ORIGINAL PLASTIC VILLAGE". This was brought out as an obvious retort against Marxville. Marx could possibly, as early as 1949, have had intentions to leverage co-ownership of the PLASTICVILLE U.S.A. name. A quick copyright fix was a done deal. Whereas the importance of the slogans cannot be understated, they substantiated and confirmed Bachmann's prideful inventiveness. A related box change was that, "PATENT APPLIED FOR" was replaced with, "Patented June 17, 1952 No. 2,600,900". The letterboxed rendering of contents was set on a medium green lawn under a blank sky. No shadows indicated a light source. The picture accurately represents the contents. A line item listing of the set's contents appears on the box top's lower edge. The contents were separated by five trays, four of which remained exactly the same as the HU-7 trays. The accessory trays, however, were eliminated and in their place was one 11" x 3 7/8" tray which accommodated the long back wall of a New England rancher.



Homes for Town and Country (HU-5), cataloged in 1955, was a set renamed for its play value rather than what was featured in the box. The core components were a New England rancher, 1954, a Bermuda rancher, 1951, and a two story colonial house, 1954. The set's yard accessories were: twelve pieces of white fence and gate (not shiny milk white which is just for HO), two spruce trees, six shrubs, and two glow in the dark street lights, all attributed to 1950, all in the most common color shades. The set included the sixteen Plasticville citizens molded in color. The 1955 boxed sets were the exclusive source of the citizens molded in color. The HU-5 always had these citizens in the following colors only: red, dark brown, tan, light grey, dark grey, hunter

green, and blue. The pink flesh color citizens were not used in the 1955 sets. For those sixteen citizens, only one automobile was provided. That's probably about right. I remember moving into one of those GI vet tract neighborhoods in 1954. All the homes had a driveway, but most of the people on my street didn't even have a car. Back then neighbors would let others borrow the car, or give rides.

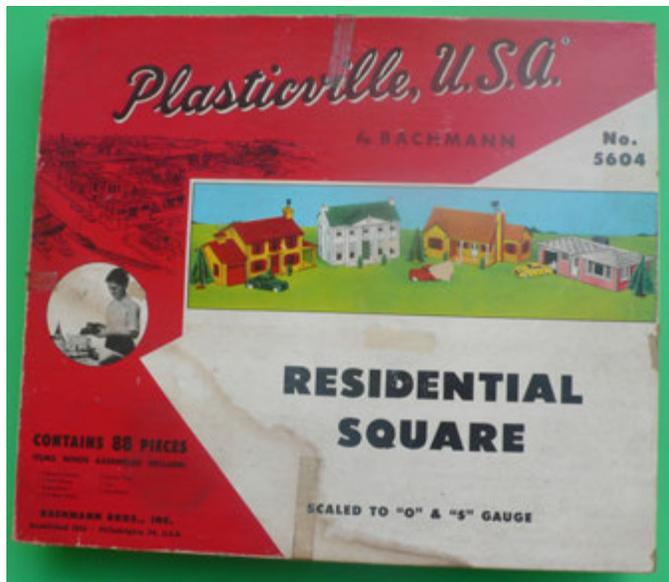


Homes for Town and Country was packaged in marshmellow peach letter era box, having the same dimensions, dividers and basic graphics as the 1954 HU-5. The letterboxed rendering of the contents was set on an expanded medium green lawn under a bright blue sky with somewhat squiggly clouds. The only shadow is under the car. A "WIN A FREE TRIP TO Disneyland" sticker was affixed to the box top. The citizens were packaged in a crisp cellophane heat sealed bag; no instructions for painting citizens or palette wheel was placed in the box. The two story house small parts were similarly packaged. Unlike the earliest house units whose shrub bag was flexible, the HU-5's shrubs were packaged in a crisp heat sealed bag. "Ornamental EVER-GREEN BUSHES", and "PLASTICVILLE U.S.A." were printed on the outside of the bag. The earlier bag was reverse printed on the inside surface. Monsanto's jingle contest form was laid over the trays and a peel off window card was placed in the two story house's divider. This set was the pinnacle of the residential boxed sets.

Residential Square 5604, cataloged in 1957, was given a very appealing name for this assortment of upscale Plasticville homes. The mansion, 1957, was the new home on the block. The mansion was once the centerpiece of Littletown's very well planned Country Estate #404. A Bermuda rancher, 1951 and a New England rancher, 1954 and a two story colonial house, 1954, were carried over from the Homes for Town and Country. The set was ungenerously accented with three spruce trees, a bag of shrubs, both attributed to 1950, and three automobiles, 1954. Seemingly the "square" was yet to be realized, as no such park or street accessories were included - not even a fence.

Residential Square 5604 was packaged in a number era box having the same dimensions and basic graphics as International Airport 5600. The box color was scarlet over white separated diagonally. The letterboxed rendering of the contents was set on a textured pea green lawn under a light blue cloudless sky. Three groves of trees were suggested over the horizon. The art work was a mixed style of drawing and retouched photography; for instance, two automobiles are crudely drawn and one was a retouched photograph. This is not the only set from 1957 for

which the artist was not ready for prime time, but the picture did represent an accurate scene. The set's dividers were two twin trays measuring 5 3/8" x 9 1/2", one 11" x 4" tray, and one large tray measuring 13 1/2" x 4 3/4". The residential Square is repeatedly sold with dividers which really belong in the Railroad Centers. Take them out. The writer sure would like to close with something nice about this set; was it mentioned that the set had a very appealing name?



In conclusion the residential sets exemplified a core value of Bachmann Industries. As a manufacturer of mainly household items which provided family enjoyment, health and beauty, Bachmann Brothers itself grew from a family business with a heritage since 1833. Christmas season seemed to be particularly

important to Bachmann. Plasticville became a Christmas time family affair of giving and playing. Starting that tradition was the little Cape Cod house. That house was found in the Christmas units, the Community Unit and also individually. And what child would not choose his favorite area of his layout and place his best Plasticville house saying, "That's OUR house!". The following kits are recommended to supplement the residential boxed sets: the split level house, the bungalow, the house under construction, the Yard Accessories Unit, playground equipment, the Street Accessories Unit, more automobiles and more citizens. And as one of the Plasticville citizens was leaving the Plasticville jail the policeman asked, "What are you going to do with your self now that you're a free man." the citizen proudly answered, "I'm going to start a home loan business." The policeman replied, disapprovingly, "I THOUGHT you were going straight!"



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PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 103 - CORRECTION

ROBERT SPIVEY

I deeply regret to inform the members that I made a mistake on the rarity chart. The Shopping Unit (SU-4), 1950, is not the rare one with zero occurrences. The Shopping Unit (SU-4), 1951 should be corrected as having zero occurrences. The Shopping Unit (SU-4), 1950, should be corrected as having ten occurrences. The chapter "Plasticville Boxed Sets 204, The Shopping Units" has always had accurate information about these two sets.

Editors Note: at the time of printing the Vol. 14 No. 3 edition has been updated to reflect the correct data. If you are an ePCA member update your collection with the latest copy!

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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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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	Miscellaneous window inserts - specify exact item needed
RH-1 Ranch House	HS-6 Hospital	*** HO PLASTICVILLE ***
CC-9 Church	1621 Motel	HO-59 Ranch House
1901 Union Station	SG-2 Signal Bridge	HO-74 Super Market
GO-3 Large Gas Station	1624 House Under Construction - no	2611 Cattle Pen
BK-1 Bank	smalls	2617 Cape Cod House
1908 Split Level House - no downspouts	CS-5 Chain Store	2608 Suburban Station
LH-4 2 Story House	1504 Mobile Home	2904 Drive-In Bank
LC-2 Log Cabin	BL-2 Bridge & Pond - specify lt, med, dk	2101 Block Signal,
GO-2 Small Gas Station	green	HO-73 Signal Bridge
SM-6 Small Super Market	CF-5 Picket Fence	2904 Toy & Hobby Shop roof
RS-7 Suburban Station - no signs	1957 Coaling Tower	2700 Coaling Station - specify part by
PO-1 Post Office - no flags	WG-2 Crossing Gate	letter
SM-7 Large Super Market	1703 Colonial Mansion	2801 Factory - water tower
1615 Water Tank - no spouts	LM-3 Station Platform	2901 Split Level wall - A/E
CC7 & 8 Churches	BB-9 Billboard - specify color & type	2976 Contemporary House
1906 Factory	1907 Apartment House	2907 New Car Showroom
SW-2 Switch Tower - no signs or	1805 Covered Bridge	<u>School House</u>
smokestacks	1804 Greenhouse	Police Station
C-18 Cathedral	1806 Roadside Stand	Post Office
PD-3 Police Station	1007 Rustic Fence	Railroad Work Car
FB-1 Frosty Bar	1034 Rustic Gate	Gas Station
1622 Dairy Barn	YW-4 Yard Pump	Cathedral
1408 Windmill	Swimming Pool (yellow)	House Under Construction
1623 Cattle Pen	Park Bench	Motel
1617 Farm Buildings	Telephone pole	Signal Bridge
MH-2 New England Rancher	Shrub	Street Signs - specify text
1407 Watchman's Shanty	Street signs - specify text	Various doors and windows
1900 Turnpike Interchange	Wishing Well	Window Inserts - specify what you need
1803 Colonial Church	Playground Equipment - specify piece &	Switch Tower
DH-2 Hardware & Pharmacy	color	TV Station
1620 Loading Platform	Trestle Bridge	Various industrial detail pieces - ask for
1853 Drug Store	1407 RR & Street Signs - specify text on	description
AP-1 Airport Hangar	sign	*** LITTLETOWN ***
AD-4 Airport Administration Building	Yard Pump	101 Super Market
SC-4 School House -specify large or	Outhouse - specify color	105 Corner Store
small light holes	Spruce Tree	106 General Store
PH-1 Town Hall	Fire Truck - missing ladder or water	109 Railroad Station
DE-7 Diner	cannon	111 Loading Platform
1618 TV Station - no globes	House Fence	112 School House
BN-1 Barn	PF-4 instruction sheet	
FH-4 Fire House	Miscellaneous doors & windows	

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Parts available in The Parts Bin:

Parts in these photos are currently in The Parts Bin and are available to all members on a "last call" basis. These parts will be available until January 31, 2016. Please note both the item and the photo in which it appears when making a request. Also be aware that many of the items shown have already been spoken for and are no longer available.

Available parts continued from the previous page.

113 Church
110 Ranch House
*** MARX ***

Barn
Railroad Station
Super Market
Church
Fire House
General Store
Ranch House
2 Story House
School House
Ranch House
Water Tower - 065
Rustic Fence
House Fence
Telephone poles
RR Signs - specify text
3-rail fence
067 R/R Crossing Signal
Slide, lounge, pool, umbrella table -
specify needed item

*** SKYLINE ***

Ranch
Church

*** K-Line ***

Ranch House
2 Story House
L-Shaped Ranch
Chicken Coop
*** MISCELLANEOUS ***
Post type mailbox w/base kit - HO
Tyco 9088 Operating Crossing Gate
Lifelike billboards - HO
Guidancetown USA building parts
Lionel billboard inserts - specify design
Atlas power poles - HO
Atlas Block Signal - HO
Atlas white street signs - specify text -
HO
Lionel RR & Street signs (white) - specify
text
Lionel Ammo Dump base
3 Rail Fence similar to Platform Fence

*** EMPTY BOXES ***

2617 HO Cape Cod
2803 HO House Under Construction
Build A House - red
45534 Pink Lady Boutique
45521 Rural Station
45526 Joe's Pizza & Video Store
45522 Bud's Convenience Store

1701 1 1/2 Story Rancher
2301 Ranch House
2410 Pine Trees
1407 Watchman's Shanty - lid only
1403 Signal Bridge
AS-4 Airport Administration Building
HO-59 Ranch House
2407 Post Office
1407 Watchman's Shanty
SW-2 Switch Tower

The only cost for these parts, as with all
Parts Bin pieces, is packaging and
postage.
Send an email to
secretary@plasticvilleusa.org listing the
pieces you wish or mail your detailed list
to:
The Parts Bin, 601 SE Second Street,
Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207.

PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L NIEHAUS

Billboard Pack 3, #0242, Smith Brothers - Speedy Relief - Buster Brown, HO-S-O Three Pak, Bar Mills Scale Model Works, \$24.95. The packaging states, "This size suggested for "HO"- "S"- "O" scale modeling". The smallest billboard in the set measures approximately 7 feet high by 15 feet wide in 1:48 scale. The largest is approximately 10 feet high by 14 feet wide.

The set contains three sheets of laser cut wood with all of the parts for one complete billboard on each sheet. There is also a small sheet of adhesive labels that are to be added as the last step in creating the pieces. A small instruction sheet completes the contents. The instruction sheet is hardly needed except for the "hints" included on it. The instructions noted to use yellow wood glue. That worked almost as quickly as if I had been able to use super glue.

Two colors of paint were needed; one for steel frame and one for the letters. The frames were sprayed with the gray primer after assembly. I attached each to a 3x5 index card with double backed tape before painting as these pieces were susceptible to the blast from the spray paint can. This allowed me to spray them without their falling over as well as using the card as a makeshift turntable. I also used hand protection while painting them in the form of disposable rubber gloves.

The white lettering was sprayed with a flat white paint as per the instruction sheet. It was removed from the laser cut sheets and

attached to the appropriate billboard after the paint had dried. The lettering on the white

painted pieces and the main billboard matched perfectly when glued in place.



I was concerned as to how well the adhesive backed graphics for the billboards would come off their backing and how well they would adhere to the billboard frames. Somehow each graphic seemed to have pulled away all the way around its outer perimeter. This allowed me to remove them from the backing sheet without causing creased or bent edges. They lined up extremely well on the billboard frame and, after a slight burnishing with a smooth tool, seem to be holding quite well.

The billboards, excluding the leg height below the bottom of the frame, measure between 3.4" to 3.75" wide by 1.8" to 1.4" high. The height includes anything projecting above the top of the billboard frame.

This billboard set and others can be purchased directly from Bar Mills Scale Model Works. The website is:

<http://www.barmillsmodels.com>

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Builders Reference Chart 1:48 Scale Builders Reference Chart, 4 pages, coated cardstock, 8 1/2 X 11, \$9.99. Published by Scale Dimensions. The chart is printed on 11 x 17 paper and folded to create the four pages. Created by PCA member Daniel Kleine, #15-930.

Did you ever wish that you had a comprehensive dimensional reference when building scale models? This may be the chart for you. The chart starts off with a 40 foot scale feet ruler on the outer edge of the first page. There is a 10 inch ruler on the outer edge of the back page. There are nine columns on each page.

The heading of the first column is Prototype with a sub-heading of Inches. The values in this column start with 1/16 and end with 48 inches. The last increments are in single inch increments from 20 through 48. The corresponding eight columns contain information relative to that fraction or inch dimension. These include Scale Equivalents: with sub-headings of Fraction, Decimal Equivalent, Inches, and Drill Bits. Machine Screws with sub-headings of: Tap Size/TPI, Alum, Brass, and Plastic, and Clearance for Screw. Scale Building Products with sub-headings of: Music Wire, Brass, Scale Lumber, and B&S Wire Gauge. The last column is Scale with a sub-heading of Metric Equivalents, mm.

The drill bits are charted from the number 107 through 1 inch. The taps are listed from 0000-160 through 7/16-28 along with the drill size to be used for the clearance hole.

Bachmann Item No. 45156 HO Ranch House. It is rare that I would review a product that has been in production for many years. There is a very compelling reason in this instance for my exception.

According to one of our Plasticville HO experts there is an earlier production ranch house with cream colored



walls that is extremely rare. The difference between the old pieces and the current pieces are the lugs inside the walls that hold them together. This new piece has the usual lugs but they also have a raised rib on the faces that interlock with the lugs on the adjoining wall.

Although not a new piece, the HO Ranch House which appeared in the 2014 catalog should now be available at your local hobby shop. It is also available through Bachmann's online store. It was not available when the catalog was published either in hobby shops or through Bachmann's online store.

The new color combination is cream walls with a chocolate brown roof and doors. The awnings, patio roof, round patio table, and two chaise lounges are a medium blue. The patio floor is a dark gray as are the combined railings and patio roof supports. (See photo 1) One random figure, molded in pink, as well as a two-sided assembly instruction sheet are also included in the kit. The doors snapped into the walls with ease. The awnings were much easier to put into place in the windows than I have experienced with older models. They also were much easier to

The Scale Building products list materials such as a round brass wire, tube, rough and finished lumber of various sizes, just to name a few.

There is also a small chart on last page listing wood screws along with their clearance drill size as well as the hard and soft wood drill sizes.

This review is related to the 1:48 scale chart. There is an HO (1:87.1) version also available at the same price.

Daniel also informed me that he is considering creating one for S scale as well.

With a price of \$9.99 every O scale modeler should have this chart in his toolbox. The chart can be purchased through eBay. Perform an advanced search on seller scaledimensions then proceed using the Buy It Now option. It can also be purchased directly by sending a check or money order for \$9.99 to: Scale Dimensions, 788 W 600 N, Hobart, IN 46342.

The chart is shipped 1st class at no additional charge in a large envelope to the US and Canada. Daniel can be reached if you have questions at scaledimensions@gmail.com

remove without damage. I am going to attribute this to a softer plastic.

The walls assembled with a bit of resistance. Enough that I could slide the house around on a flat surface without it falling apart. Maybe the molds for the O/S buildings can be reworked to add the rib to their lugs so that the buildings will better stay together when assembled.

The illustration on the box shows the patio located on the right hand side of the house. I found that it very nicely snug-gles under the roof at the back door, Photo 2. That is where I would place it if using the house on my layout.

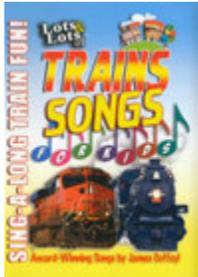


If you need another house in the 'burbs on your layout then you may want to consider this new addition to the Plasticville HO roster.

The Ranch House is listed on Bachmann's website at \$21. I checked Amazon and was shocked to see it listed for \$43.92 plus \$2 shipping by one seller! Another listing offered it at \$15.79 but with \$9.95 shipping. It seems your best bet may be to see if your local hobby shop will special order it for you or just order it directly through Bachmann's website. I doubt that your total price using either of these options would be anywhere near \$45 for a \$21 list price item.

Lots and Lots of Train Songs for Kids, DVD, approximately 60 minutes, \$19.95. Published by Marshall Publishing & Promotions.

As the title implies there are lots and lots of train songs on the DVD. Twenty two to be exact. There are nine Big Train Songs and twelve Toy Train Songs. There is also a theme song with the title, Lots & Lots of Trains - Songs for Kids.



All of the songs are sung by James Coffey. You may recognize the name as he is the vocalist on many of the TM Books & Videos productions. All of the songs are accompanied by videos.

Videos for Big Train Songs are of prototype trains including the Zephyr located at the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, Illinois. Additional footage seems to be from the

Cumbres & Toltec Railroad as well as the Durango and Silverton Railroad.

Videos associated with the Toy Train songs vary according to subject matter. Some are of toy trains while some are prototype trains. I did notice that the some of the prototype clips are used in accompaniment of more than one song but not to the extent that the videos all seem the same.

Animations of youngsters riding a train are used for The Birthday Train song. The song, Little Brick Trains is accompanied by videos of Lego block trains and buildings. The train cars accompanying The Alphabet Train song are similar to, if not, the

wooden Child Guidance train with 3 dimensional letters all joined together by magnets.

There are four clips in the bonus section, two for steam engines and two for diesel engines. These relate how a steam engine or a diesel engine works - gets its power- as well as how to drive a steam train and how to drive a diesel. These bonus clips are narrated by a talking steam engine or talking diesel as applicable. The graphics, combined with the talking engines and very remedial descriptions should make it easy for a youngster to understand the workings of the engines.

This is a nice little DVD that may keep the youngsters occupied while on a long trip. I had expected that the songs would have subtitles for youngsters to sing along. Alas even after looking everywhere on the disk that option was not to be found.

All in all, this would still be a nice little birthday or other special occasion gift for a youngster in the recommend age range of 3 through 12.

Lots and Lots of Train Songs for Kids can be purchased directly from the publisher through their website at <http://www.marshallpublishinginc.com/>. The DVD is currently on sale for \$12.95. You can also order the DVD by phone at 1-888-300-3455, Monday through Sunday 24/7. Their mailing address is: Marshall Publishing & Promotions, Inc., 123 S. Hough St., Barrington, Illinois 60010.

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THE VILLAGER CLASSIFIED ADS

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WANTED

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

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 pumps, 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 May 2016

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. Ladder for silver/red Marx O-gauge water tower, #10-628 Ken Honick, PO Box 515, Buena-Vista, PA 15018 Ph. 412-513 9748 genlee57@yahoo.com

Wanted: 2014 Bachmann Catalog, O-Scale: Greenhouse #45615, Union Station #45976, Split Level House #45607. HO: Park Assortment #42209, Picnic Set #42213, Playground Equip. #42214, Swimming Pool & Acc. #42215. #15-928, Richard Brown, 200 72nd Ave N. Apt 105. St. Petersburg, FL. 33702-5936.

Wanted to buy: The following Plasticville Items: #45971 Rural Two Story House - #45972 Rural Station Plasticville white crossing gates with red signal aspects (WG-2), total number wanted 6 pieces. #15-296, John Delaney 147 Belmont Street, Weymouth MA. 02188-1207

Ending August 2016

PD-3 Police Station red base for antenna, 1907 Apartment House tan rear wall, 1624 House Under Construction any small parts, 1408 Windmill Arrow. #10-647 Albert Hery 229 Suzanne Dr. Shreveport LA 71115, Phone 318-798-8096.

K-Lineville L-ranch house (#K-4150) main front wall part #1 (from the assembly instructions sheet), no color preference. gun.slick@juno.com #15-947, Tom Taylor 3549 N. Pleasant View Drive, Prescott Valley AZ 86314, Phone 928-775-9373.

Plasticville HO catalogs A, B, and D. These are not part of the O/S catalogs of the same year. #00-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 johnln@netins.net

FOR TRADE

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

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, 4115 West Ave. J-7, Lancaster, CA 93536. villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

My Amloid 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

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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 SALE

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

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.

Ending February 2016

Collector-quality Plasticville and Littletown kits and master units, complete, unbroken, unglued, comprehensive selection. Many scarce, mint, desirable items for advanced or beginning enthusiasts to enhance or start a collection. Prefer to sell collection intact. Detailed inventory available, phone and e-mail inquiries welcomed, personal inspection can be arranged. #15-921 Roger Schatel, 2 Dunnerdale Rd., Morris Plains, NJ 07950. Ph. 973-993-9372 or email rcde4@optonline.net

Ending May 2016

Plasticville buildings for sale without boxes. They are all in excellent condition. Pictures and additional information available on request as hammond.r4420@gmail.com. Suburban Train Station, Freight Station, School, Frosty Bar, Diner, Large and small Gas Stations, Hardware/Drug Store, Cape Cod House, two car garage, Barnyard Buildings and animals. #15-940 Robert Hammond, 53 Aspen Lane NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Ending August 2016

Plasticville Petroleum Products 3-dome O-gauge tank car manufactured by Williams by Bachmann. No longer made-was a Bachmann club car a few years ago. Like new condition with original box and paperwork. Mates with Lionel couplers. Was \$65, but asking \$49. Photo available on request. #01-24 John Gottcent, 3912 West Oregon Street, Evansville, IN 47720. Ph. 812-426-2989 or email jandjgott@gmail.com

Near mint Plasticville catalogs. Various dates from 1952 through 1966. Send me your wants or ask for my price list. NOS School House lights, large pin variety, \$10, postpaid. NOS School House weathervane, \$5, postpaid. Plastic Village Gazette #3, \$5, postpaid. #00-3 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021. 515-771-6888 10:00AM-8:00PM Central time. johnln@netins.net

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