



# THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association  
Volume 15                      February 2016                      Number 1

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## ELECTION RESULTS FROM THE 2016/2017 OFFICER ELECTION

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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The Executive Committee is pleased to announce the results of the election of officers for the 2016/2017 term. Chris P. Matthy has been elected President. Frank B. Ross has been elected Vice President. John L. Niehaus has been again elected Secretary/Treasurer.



Nearly 250 ballots of the slightly over 500 that were mailed were returned. That return rate is way above what other organizations ever hope to receive. This shows that you, the members of the Plasticville Collectors Association, have a great interest in who guides our

Association over the next two years. We sincerely thank you for your participation in this election.

Chris Matthy is from Cresco, Pennsylvania. Frank Ross has just relocated from Centennial, Colorado to Lilitz, Pennsylvania. John L Niehaus lives in Ankeny, Iowa a suburb just north of Des Moines.

The Executive Committee for the 2016/2017 term will be Chris Matthy, Frank Ross, John Niehaus, Immediate Past President Doug Gilliatt and our founder Joe Kutza. Welcome, Chris and Frank to the Committee.

## NEW LOGIN OPTION ON THE WEBSITE MENU BAR

### THE WEBMASTER

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A long awaited and welcome addition has been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association website. The rightmost option on the menu bar on the home page as well as every other page is a link that will allow you to log onto the website before going any further.

Clicking on it will prompt you for your login user name and password. No more clicking here and there until you get a login prompt. Members in good standing can now use this link to log into the Members section of the website from any page. I intend to use it as soon as the home page is displayed.

You will be immediately prompted for your user name and password when you click on the Login option. Once you enter your user name and password and click on OK you will be

presented with the red *Members Only* graphic. You can then click on the graphic or the *members only page* text string - it is a hyperlink - in the sentence above the graphic and it will take you to the Members Only section of the web page. That's the way to go if you wish to download the current newsletter.



If you are only interested in viewing something listed in the menu bar such as *Kleeware* under the *Other Mfg* menu option and have used the Login option, simply click through to it. You will not be asked again for your user name and password for the remainder of the time you are on the website.

### The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

www.plasticvilleusa.org

**President:** Chris P. Matthy

**Vice President:** Frank B. Ross

**Secretary/Treasurer:** John L. Niehaus

**Webmaster:** John L. Niehaus

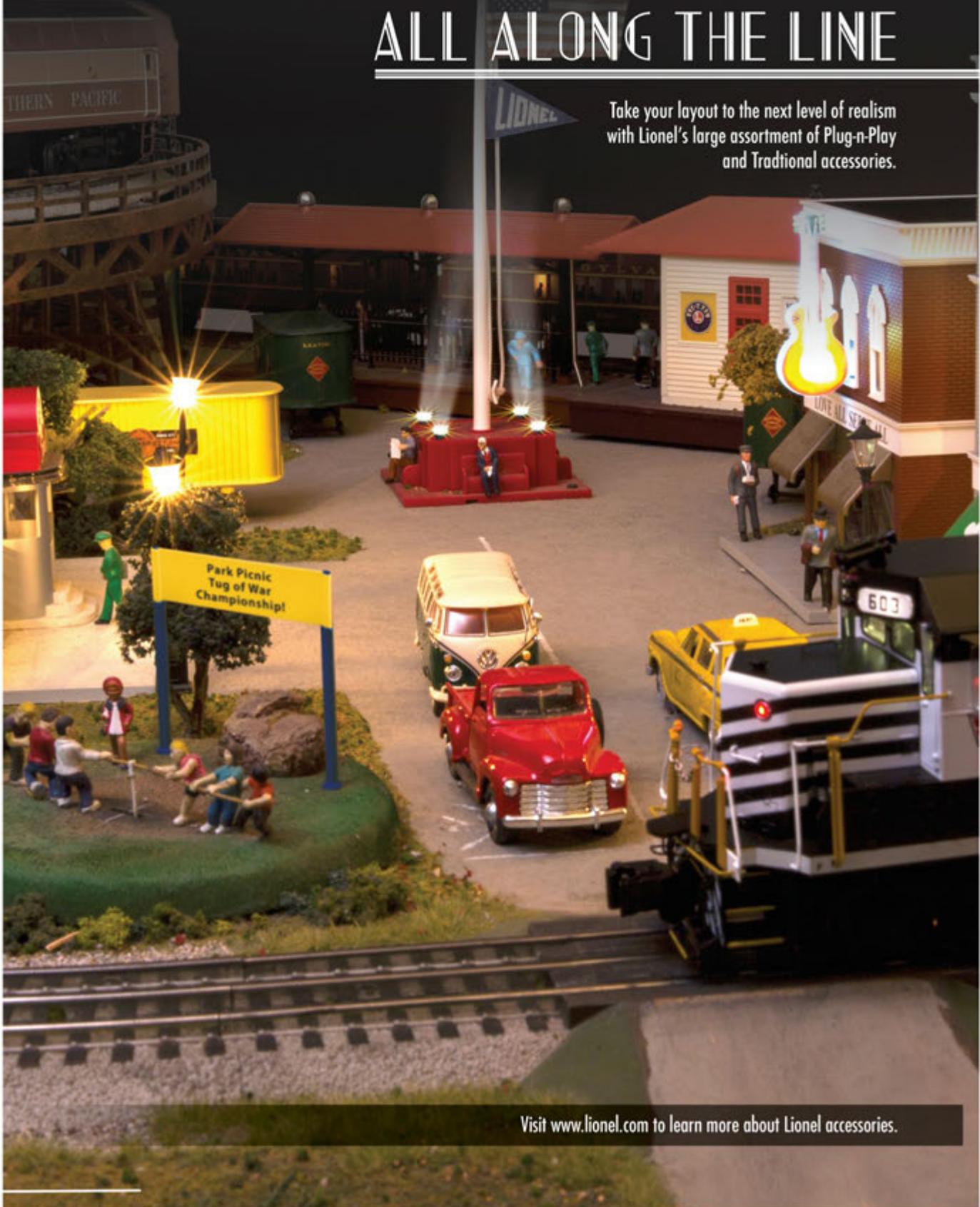
**Newsletter Editor:** Matthew Harvazinski

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## FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S DESK



I want to first thank all of our outgoing members of the board as well as the members that will retain their position on the board for all of their help during my tenure as the President of the PCA. I have valued their opinions and all their help and hope they all will continue to be a resource for our organization.

I would also like to welcome our incoming board; which at the time of me writing my final article have not been named. I am sure they will bring forth new ideas that will make the PCA a better organization. Additionally I would also like to thank John Niehaus for his continuing support of the PCA in the capacity of Treasure/Secretary as well as Matt Harvazinski *The Villager* editor.

As for myself I would like to thank all the members who voted for me in the past and to say that it's been an honor to be the president of the PCA. As the members may have noticed I am a quiet person when it comes to my musings and submissions to *The Villager* but I will continue to support the PCA and will be available for support/questions any time.

Before I forget I hope that all the members made it thru the Holidays and a belated Happy New Year to everyone! Possible you may have been given a new building or other train related item as a present this past Holiday season. If you received something that you believe that would be of interest please write a short article and maybe a picture or two for publication in *The Villager* on your gift?

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

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

Doug Gilliatt  
Outgoing PCA President

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



It is an honor and a privilege to be greeting you as the newly-elected President of our PCA. I hope I can serve you well in this term.

How did you get started in collecting Plasticville or other plastic villages? I'll bet that my story has a lot of similarities with other plastic village collectors, maybe yours. My story has a few twists and turns. Early memories are distant, but I remember playing with a Marx windup set, and then around age 5 my grandfather gave me my first real O gauge train for Christmas: a Kusan freight set! Only the engine and track have survived from that set, but I also remember playing with a few Plasticville pieces: a Motel, a Suburban Station, and a Fire House. Unfortunately, my parents saw fit to give them away to another kid who got a Lionel train for Christmas a few years later.

I still had a connection to Plasticville though, because my father's Christmas trains, and eventually mine, were HO, and we had a good collection of Plasticville buildings. They eventually went into storage during college, marriage, early career, etc. But I was beginning to become aware of vintage trains, and started a small collection of American Flyer S gauge. Then it happened. Living on Long Island, I walked into TrainLand one day. Now in the middle of the store was a huge table, maybe 8'x8' or more, always piled with old train stuff that obviously came into the store. They even had a deal: \$10 to fill a paper grocery bag with anything you wanted. On a previous trip I had scored a bag loaded to the top with Flyer cabooses, almost every variation available. On this particular day, some familiar buildings caught my eye; I even remember the cashier gave me the eye because I had stuff sticking out of the bag as high as it would go as I checked out. But I went home the owner a huge lot of Plasticville O/S buildings.

There's more to my story, and I'll continue in later newsletters. For now just let me add that my curiosity, along with the knowledge shared by others like you, has kept me interested in this hobby for over thirty years. Like many of you, I joined the PCA not for what I knew but for what I hoped I could learn. And that leads me to one of the main things I hope we can do together: continue to make the PCA the go-to organization for everything Plasticville and, as a bonus, all plastic villages. I have just completed my first executive meeting, and we spent almost the whole time on things that will make our website even better.

Now a confession: I have a personal passion for those special edition buildings that were made for PCA anniversaries. I was disappointed that we didn't have a 15th anniversary building, and I got to know some of the ins-and-outs in corresponding with our excellent secretary. My hope is that we can find a way to commemorate the 20th year of the PCA, BUT ... we also need to know if this is of value to the whole membership (see below).

Perhaps most importantly, we need to be listening to you. Obviously the PCA can't go 400 directions at once, and we already have a reason for existing - we have a mission statement, if you will. Still, there is a reason YOU joined the PCA, and maybe you still are waiting for what you wanted. I would like to find opportunities to meet some of you around the northeast, but email conversations can happen across the miles.

So thanks again for this opportunity. I'm determined to have fun doing this, and I hope we have fun on the journey together.

Chris Matthy  
Incoming PCA President

## INCOMING VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT



First and foremost I want to thank the membership for electing me the Vice-President of the PCA. I was both blind-sided and flattered that our Secretary approached me to consider running for office. I will try to contribute to the organization to the best of my ability.

My wife and I just relocated to Lititz, PA back in October, so because of the move, my 200 square foot Lionel O Gauge layout in Denver, CO, was totally disassembled and carefully packed. As a result of the move, I was able to better organize all of my "stuff". I didn't realize how much Plasticville I have! I am now starting to build a 300+ square foot layout, but so far all I'm doing is building the table for the layout. I plan to use quite a bit more of my scenery structures than I used before. This is probably a multi-year project for me, but I enjoy the challenge and the creativity of designing a new layout, including the scenery.

I hope that everybody had a joyous and memorable holiday season and that someone presented you with a gift that is Plasticville or model/toy train related. My wife surprised me with "The Depot" train station which is one of the newer buildings put out by Woodland Scenics. This one, like all of the others that I presently own, is painted, weathered, and detailed with the greatest precision that I could never duplicate on my own. Although I am a big fan of Plasticville, I also enjoy structures that are available from other manufacturers as well. I am constantly frustrated that there haven't been any new O scale buildings presented by Plasticville, but on the other hand, I am very pleased that the O Scale line is still alive out there, and that Bachmann is presenting their product pre-painted with again greater precision than I could produce. I particularly admire the paint scheme for the Bank and the Farmer's Market. I have to admit right now that I know very little about the HO line of Plasticville. I do know that there are a few Plasticville structures available in the HO line that are not available in the O scale. I wish that it wasn't the case.

I realized quite a few years ago, that I am more interested in the scenery portion of my Lionel train layout than the trains themselves. When I was a teenager, I would try to visualize what a big village of Plasticville would look like even though I didn't have

the money to buy all of the buildings, or the size of my layout to put them on. It was an ongoing exercise with trying to figure out how to realistically design and relate the airport structures with the farm buildings and the turnpike toll booths. Add in the Independence Hall, and that made the challenge for me even harder.

I am by no means an expert on Plasticville although I've spent a reasonable amount of time researching and getting knowledgeable with all of the different color variations for all of the various structures. It was about ten years ago at a TCA York train show when I took the step of purchasing a large box of assorted Plasticville parts with the intention of continuing to search for the random pieces that would be needed to complete the various structures with the proper colors. Some of the structures came fairly easy, but most of them turned out to be a lot harder than I expected. There is quite a lot of Plasticville being shown at the York shows, and if you have never attended one, you will be overwhelmed at the physical size of the show, and all that is available to buy if you are so inclined. Of course, you have to be a member of the TCA to attend.

I know that some of the membership are much more knowledgeable about the Plasticville line than I am because of the articles that they submit for our newsletter. I always enjoy reading their articles about researching different issues and kit-bashing different parts to come up with an original structure. I certainly encourage our members to continue sharing your creativity with all of us who deal with any subject that is scenery related.

Because this is my first newsletter appearance, and I am new to the office, I'm not yet up to speed as to what the current issues and concerns behind the scenes (no pun intended) of this organization may be. As we move forward, I'll share them with the membership. I will also share some of the knowledge that I discovered about Plasticville, various scenery techniques and other tricks about lighting structures and also installing those wonderful Miller Engineering signs that I enjoy using.

As Lou Palumbo always says, "Keep searchin'..."  
Frank B. Ross

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS



This is not really a VP column, as I am no longer the VP. But it is a welcome / thank you to Frank Ross for taking on this role. Also a congratulations to not only Frank, but to Chris Matthy becoming the new President. Serious thanks to Doug Gillatt for being the Vice President for well over a decade until finally wearing the mantle of President. Doug will stay with the PCA Executive Committee until a new President is elected, so future thanks to him for all the work and thought. No mention of thanks is complete without Joe Kutza. Joe started the PCA with a website and encouraged folks to send in info and stories. My contact with Joe lead to a meeting when he was in the Northern California area on business and I was on my way to Tahoe for a

ski trip after attending the NorCal TCA Train Meet in the San Jose area. None of this would have happened without Joe.

But this is a single threaded story of thanks. Because of Joe, John Niehaus became the club Secretary-Treasurer as well as the editor (initiator of!) *The Villager*. John also worked tirelessly as the club's legal advisor getting us incorporated and recognized as a 501c(3) charitable non-profit organization. All the pens, t-shirts, cups, *et al* we have for sale, all the paying ads in *The Villager* are due to John's actions and work on our collective behalf. There are two or three emails a week from John with a question, issue or problem from members or vendors or customers for the Executive Committee members to answer. If Joe was

the creator, John has been the heart beat to keep it all alive and working.

Matt Harvazinski took over *The Villager* from John at just the right time: John was working harder in retirement than he did when employed full time.

And how cool was it for me to have not only someone else in Southern California helping out on PCA activities, but they turn out to also be another American Flyer fan as well? VERY cool.

Then again, the 500 plus members we now have, from the small numbers when I joined in 2001 (right after the club started, member number 9), is remarkable to me. Thanks to all the folks

who have joined and stayed to keep the Plastic Village Party going.

This won't be my last contribution to *The Villager*. I've promised to finish the series on the dioramas Cindy and I made for our Los Angeles based S club. Still to go are pictures on the Trailer Condos, Gone With The Wind, the Farm, the Fields, the Karo Syrup Factory and the Halloween Store With Haunted House. I'll try to get one done twice a year.

In closing, it has been a real joy to interface with so many of you, especially all the folks who have contributed to running the club.

Happy hunting at the swaps, antique shops and garage sales, may the finds be rare and the prices low. Fred out.

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN



It is hard to believe but this marks the start of my second year as the editor of *The Villager*. I enjoyed putting the newsletter together over the last year. I hope that the membership is enjoying the final product because it does take a considerable amount of work from both myself and all of our contributors.

My only complaint would be that I receive almost no feedback from the general membership, only a few people provide feedback and thoughts, which I appreciate. I would encourage you to contact me with your feedback, be it positive or negative so that the newsletter can reflect what you, the members, are interested in. Contact me at [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org). On a related note, I am not receiving very many new classified ads, please think about using the free service to find that piece you have been looking for, or to sell one of your doubles!

Over the Christmas holiday I had a chance to visit my Dad and assist with his annual layout maintenance. This includes removing all of the roofs and washing them in warm soapy water and cleaning and vacuuming the track. This year we also took down all of the Plasticville cars and gave them a bath too! Overall we spent around two days just cleaning things. It may sound like a drag but we have a lot of fun doing it, when we come upon a more scare building to clean it usually strikes up a conversation reliving where and when we found that item. Between the two of us we can mostly keep track. I am curious for those of you that have a permanent or semi-permanent layout. What do you do, if anything, to keep them clean? Perhaps someone would like to

author a short article describing their procedures, or send in any quick tips that can be shared with the PCA about how to keep things looking sharp.

I am still looking for contributors to help spread their knowledge. If you think you could assist (even for just a single article) your help would be appreciated. Listed below are a few of the areas where I think there is a general knowledge gap. At least these are areas that I would like to learn more about!

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## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



The votes have been counted. Congratulations go to Chris Matthy and Frank Ross. They are our new President and Vice President, respectively, for 2016 and 2017. Their willingness to step up and help lead this organization is greatly appreciated by me as well as the outgoing officers.

It seems that I will be your Secretary/Treasurer for the next two years as no one ran against me. I hope that someone will step up and accept this position during the next election cycle. I enjoy the work but spend quite a few hours each week on the associated tasks as well as administer *The Parts Bin* program. In addition, I have an extensive collection of Plasticville and other plastic village buildings that I would like to photograph for inclusion on our website. This, coupled with a vision issue, may prevent me from continuing as your Secretary/Treasurer after 2017.

One of those tasks is member retention. I have, historically, contacted every member who has not renewed membership after January 1 to determine why they have not done so. There are usually about 90 members who do not renew each year. Some just forget and need a phone call as a reminder. Others have decided that the Association is not for them. And sadly, some have passed away. I am pleased to announce that Anthony Santay #09-568 has volunteered to be our Ad Hoc Member Retention Committee chairman and will make those calls this year. I sincerely thank him for this effort.

I am also looking for someone to be our advertising salesperson. My preference would be someone who consistently attends the Fall (October) York train show to take on this responsibility. Over half of our advertisers have a presence at that show. That is where I contact them regarding advertising for the next year. Your only task would be to contact each of our current advertisers, determine if they are going to continue their support of the PCA in the coming year, and let me know. I will then send an invoice and coordinate new advertising copy where applicable. I will not put you into this position "cold" but would take you around to all of our advertisers at the next Fall York and introduce you to each advertiser as their new advertising contact. For those advertisers who do not have a York presence I will contact them mid-year and let them know that you will be their new advertising contact. Send an email to me at [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) if you would like to fill this position.

There was a recent eBay lot that contained color pages from our previous website iteration. It also contained printed pages from PCA member Charles Wilber's website. Printing pages for one's reference is legal. Offering PCA website content or other website content for sale is illegal under Federal copyright laws. Our entire website is copyrighted under U. S. copyright laws therefore the seller was breaking the law. Fortunately, the seller removed the listing from eBay after I contacted him.

As you read on the front page, our website developer has added a Login option to the menu bar. This should make it a lot easier

for you to get to the Members section of the website. We should have asked for this option some time ago. I tried it and I love it.

This year has been a banner year for returned mail. Most was returned due because the time that the USPS will forward mail had expired. In other cases the returned mail label states the premises was vacant. When I receive returned mail I try my best to contact the person to whom the mail was sent. In many instances, the person has moved but failed to inform the PCA. Please be certain to include an email to [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) or send a letter to Secretary, PCA, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207 if you move. Please be sure to also include your telephone number if it has also changed.

Speaking of phone numbers: We have added a new field, Cell Phone Number, to the membership records. Please send an email to [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) if you drop your land line and are now exclusively using a cell phone number for your primary phone number or if you wish your cell phone number to be included in your membership record.

Kudos to Daniel Kleine #15-930 for his article on building a livestock loading ramp that appeared in the October/November issue of *O Gauge Rail-Roading*. I also hope that you read the review of his 1:48 Builder's Reference Chart in the November issue of *The Villager* and maybe left hints around the house that you would like it for Christmas. It is one of the most comprehensive charts I have seen in quite some time.

Protection of personal information is always a concern. You can rest assured that the PCA does not share any information in your membership record with anyone other than current members through the roster which can only be accessed by other current members through the Members Only section of our website. We have been asked in the past to provide member information, for which we would be compensated, from various companies. We have and will continue to decline all such offers. Your membership information is safe in that respect as well as electronically. Your information is stored on a computer that has intrusion prevention as well as a dual firewall to help prevent intrusion.

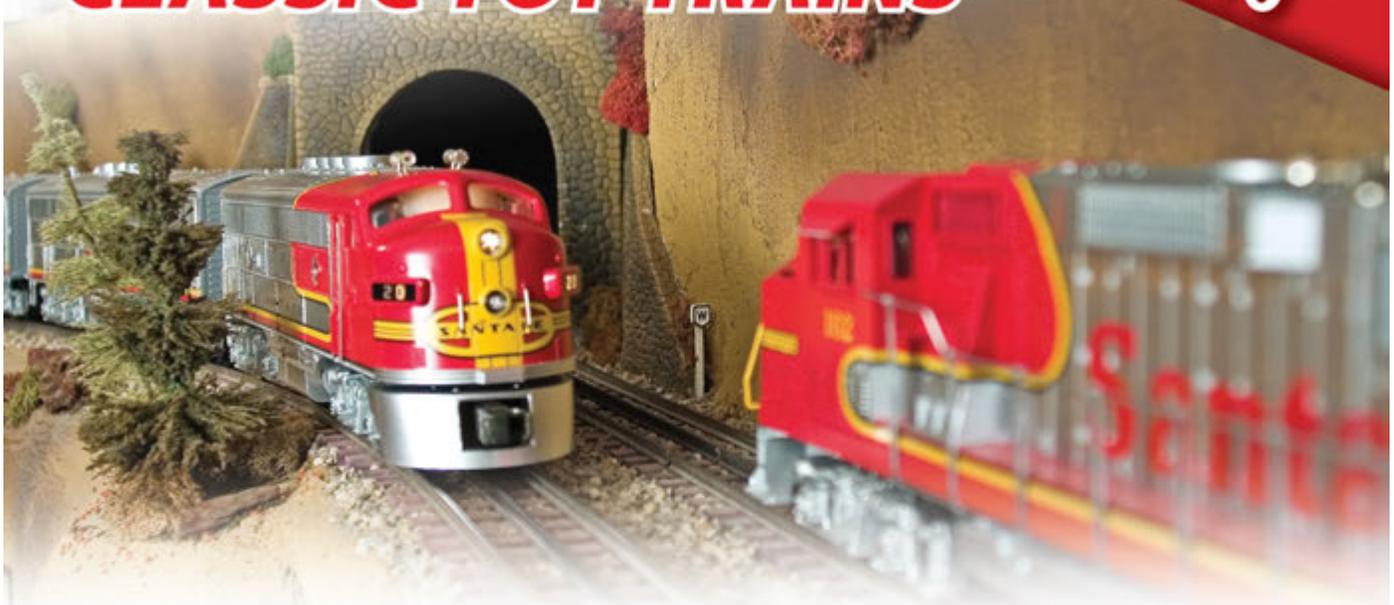
OOPS! Some of you who renewed early enough to receive two billboard inserts may have received two of the same kind - printed on both sides or printed on one side only. If you are one of those who received two of the same kind and would like one of the other design please let me know which one you did not receive and I will send it to you.

I have been informed that William Luta #12-729 passed away last August. I am late in noting this as I just received notice from his wife via email after publication of the November issue of *The Villager*.

Just as this edition of the newsletter was being finalized I was informed that Reginald Henry #05-336 has passed away. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on December 27 and passed away on January 7. You will remember that Reg ran for the office of Vice President in this year's election. I now know why he did not return my email informing him that Frank Ross had won.

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# JANUARY 2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The January Executive Committee meeting was called to order on January 7, 2016 at 7:00PM, Eastern Standard time, by founder Joe Kutza. Those in attendance were founder Joe Kutza, incoming President Chris Matthy, incoming Vice President Frank Ross, Immediate Past President Doug Gilliatt, Immediate Past Vice President Fred Ruby, and website developer Doty Shepard. Those in absence were outgoing Immediate Past President James Dawes and Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus.

(NOTE: The following minutes were constructed based on a telephone conversation with Joe Kutza after the meeting concluded)

The business portion of the meeting was prefaced by a welcoming of the new officers by Joe Kutza and Fred Ruby.

## Old Business:

### **Search for new Internet Service provider**

A discussion was held after which a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to move forward with the transitioning from our current Internet Service Provider (ISP) to Blue Host as recommended by Doty. Doty reported that hosting through Blue Host would be about half the price of the current ISP as well as allowing more storage space than the current ISP at the lower cost.

Joe asked Doty to put together a transition plan for the Committee's review and approval.

A second motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to transition from the current domain name service, register.com, for economical as well as service issues associated with register.com.

### **Lack of the physical address of the PCA on the website**

It was suggested by Doty that a physical address not be included on the website due to the possibility of opening the person at that physical address up to junk mail and registration hoaxes similar to what she experienced when she was temporarily hosting the new site on her server.

## New Business:

### **Ad Hoc Member Retention Committee chairman**

Tabled until next E/C meeting.

## **TAKE A GUESS**

Digitally removed the label (stamped red text) from this plain cardboard box. Can you guess which Plasticville kit appeared in it?

Email your guess to,  
villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

Look for more photos of this odd box, along with the contents in a future edition of *The Villager*. If you have more information about this item please contact me at the above address.

### **Lack of copyright notice on website home page**

It was pointed out that a copyright notice as well as the copyright, ©, symbol is part of the footer on every web page.

### **Custom pad printing Divco trucks and Pickup trucks**

Tabled until next E/C meeting

### **Photos on website**

Joe will send Doty the current criteria for submitting photos as found on the website and has requested that she review and update them as necessary. He also requested that she change the Members/Contact/ Photo Contributions section on the website when the update is completed

### **Continued use of PVUSA and PV**

A discussion was held regarding continuing the use of both domain names, those being plasticville.org and plasticvilleusa.org. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to continue to pay for the right to use both names at this time. This was predicated on the fact that the plasticvilleusa.org domain name is used on the current website and to change to the plasticville.org domain name would be cost prohibitive. The decision to retain both was to ensure that the plasticville.org domain name was not used by another entity that may in no manner be connected with the Plasticville trade name of the PCA.

### **Membership record information change**

Doty will investigate the feasibility of allowing members to directly change information in their membership record rather than sending an email or letter to the Secretary. She will investigate the feasibility as well as the cost for this option during her transitioning process to Blue Host as the PCA's ISP.

### **Password retrieval**

It was requested of Doty that she investigate the possibility of members retrieving their password electronically rather than sending an email to the Secretary. She will investigate the feasibility as well as the cost for this option during her transitioning process to Blue Host as the PCA's ISP.

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, January 11, 2016



## WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

Do any members know anything about these Frontier figures?

At their bases they are an inch wide and about 3 inches tall, they are made of hard plastic. On the back side of their bases they have 1734-1820, Christopher Carson 1809-1868, William F Cody 1846-1917 and on the front of their bases Daniel Boone, Kit Carson & Buffalo Bill. Member Rich Kotowski out in California just picked them up at a show thinking they might look good in a park setting or with the Plasticville Log Cabin. You can email Rich if you have information,

rnlkotowski@yahoo.com



## PROPOSED MEMBERS

The following have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association. The names of all proposed members must be published for the review of the general membership before being accepted as members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be permanently added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls if no objection to such action is received prior to April 1, 2016.

- Edward F Titterton III, Philadelphia, PA
- Nicky Moon, Spotsylvania, VA
- Richard A Behring, Cape Girardeau, MO
- Kevin Richardson, San Pedro, CA
- Joseph F Gatelli, Scranton, PA

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of January 1, 2016. Their names are now permanently listed in the on-line roster.

- 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, Presco 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

### Christmas Museum

# Magic & Memories of Christmas

## Family Attraction & Museum

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ncc@nationalchristmascenter.com

# DID YOU EVER NOTICE: THOSE LARGE BIRDS

DAVID M. STARRE #09-580

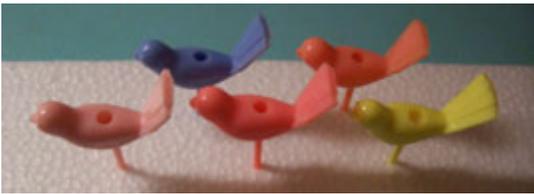
Recently, I have taken an interest in the Bachman Brothers bird baths with the single large bird (shown below) and did some research to learn about their history. I acquired the bird baths about 20 years ago in a collection of Plasticville. I



had traded "sold out Cleveland Indians tickets" to a supervisor at work for Plasticville buildings. They were common buildings

and the trades were fair although I did not realize that there were three different colored bird baths with those large birds nor did I understand their status. Several years ago after going through my collection several times I started to question these bird baths. I sent an E-mail to Bill Nole asking him about these items. He said that they were hard-to-find and were released in a birthday cake offerings but never in the Plasticville line. They are under BB logo but not part of the train type kits. Another offshoot of Bachmann just like the sunglasses line.

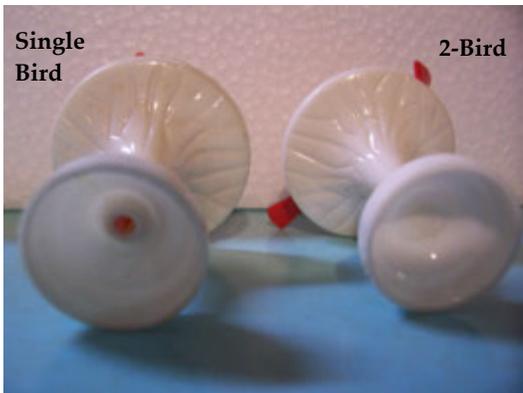
I had to know more about the history and value. I did some searching and found that after World War II, Bachmann was



experimenting with plastic injection molding. Some of the first items

they started manufacturing were combs, sunglasses and birthday cake BIRD candle holders. The candle holders examples are shown above with about 5 different color variations. Additional colors were offered at the time. The Bachmann candle holders have a hole in the top for the candle and a stick so that they stand up in the cake. When this large bird was used in the bird bath the cavity in the mold was filled to cover the hole in the large bird (as shown in the first photo).

The next photo shows the underside of the bird bath. The bath with the large bird is on the left and a regular 2-bird bath is on the right. Notice how the "stick" of the large bird is glued to the



bottom of the bird bath. These products (with the large birds) were part of the BB line and produced between 1947 and 1949. The large birds with the bath would come in three colors: light blue, yellow, and red. The more common 2-bird Plasticville version, produced in 1950, would come in these same colors.

Three years ago I could not find any values for these birds because I would never see any listings for them on eBay nor any published values simply because they were not part of the Plasticville line. Recently, I saw a few birds sell individually on eBay for between \$40.00 and \$50.00 with shipping. One of sellers claimed the light blue bird is the rarest.



The Plasticville bird bath is cataloged as Bird Bath/Garden Bird Bath CBR/CB and is shown to the right. This Bird bath is one of the first Plasticville items produced. It is interesting to note that the HF-2 Fence and Gate Kit dealer box shows a bird bath on the front of it, it has the single large bird. The Fence & Gate Kit was produced in 1950. The cover of the HF-2 box is shown below. Notice the bird bath in the front right side of the yard.



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# K-LINE: BOXES, BAGS, AND BLISTERPACKS

## Box Type 5

DONALD W. HUOVINEN #11-714



The box I have identified as Box 5 is most unusual. In fact it is so unusual that I personally have never seen one however they do come up for sale on eBay from time to time. But never at a price I am willing to pay, so for me the search goes on! The photos which accompany this article are used with the kind permission of Ed Berg. The box seems to be strange mixture of the next logical progression of Box 4 combined with features of Box 1.

*front*



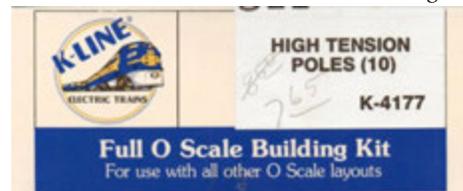
The left portion of the front of the box appears to be the next logical progression of Box 4. The upper left corner of the box has the now familiar K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo. In the lower left corner of the box the text now reads, "For use with all K-LINE, Lionel and other O Scale layouts" As noted in the previous article about Box 4, K-Line had dropped the reference to Lionel in their text however it now returns! Curiously also the logo/text now takes up a larger percentage of the front of the box, 40%, compared to 33% previously. This is to the detriment of the photo which takes up the rest of the front of the box. On Box 5 this photo is not of the item included in the box but is a printed photo of K-LINEVILLE previously seen on Box 1. And there is a small sticker affixed to the upper corner of the front of the box which extends down over the right side of the box which identifies the item included in the box, also identical to that seen on Box 1. Perhaps this was a generic "emergency" box which could be used to package any item if the supply of pre-printed boxes ran out. A quick printing of some stickers and you are back in business.

Of special note, the only item I have seen packaged in this box is K-4177 High Tension Poles (10). K-4177 was cataloged from 1983-1987 and was dropped from the catalog in 1988. It stands to reason that this box was made in 1987 as this coincides with the new K-Line logo used in 1987. I would be interested in hearing of any other items which came in this box.

This box is certainly unusual and 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 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, Lionel and other O Scale layouts/Easy to assemble/Snap fit assembly/Pre-colored parts/Realistic detailing". The reference to Lionel has returned.
- The logo/text portion on the left side of the front is a larger percentage: 40%.
- There is a picture of K-Lineville printed on the right 60% of the front of the box, identical to that on Box 1.
- There is a small sticker with a photo of the item included in the box affixed to the upper corner of the front of the box and extends down over the right side of the box. A description of the item is included on the sticker.
- The right side of the box has the newer K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo printed on the left third of the side. The aforementioned sticker extends down over the right two-thirds and has the item description as well as the item number.

*right side*



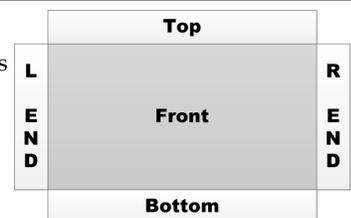
- The left side of the box has a small photo of K-LINEVILLE along with the newer K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo, identical to Box 4.

*left side*



### Common Box Lingo

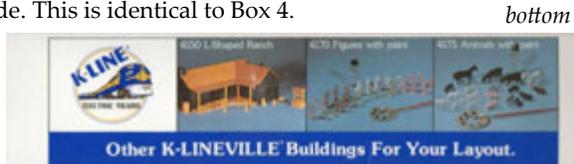
- Front - Largest side with the most detail describing the contents
- Back - Largest side opposite the front
- Ends - Vertical surfaces on the right & left of the front
- Top/Bottom - Surface on the top/bottom of the front



- The 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. This is identical to Box 4.



- 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. This is identical to Box 4.



- The back of the box contains illustrations of twelve 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.

- 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*



back of the box. The church is still listed as 4110 Church even though the 4110 Church had been superseded by the 4111 Church in the 1983 catalog.

All of the photos are courtesy of Ed Berg. As always I welcome your additions, 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.

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## GREENBERG'S 2016 LIONEL POCKET PRICE GUIDE

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

The Lionel Greenberg's pocket price guide for 2016 is now available from Kalmbach books. Kalmbach only published a Lionel guide this year, no new American Flyer or Marx guides. My guess is that there may not be a large enough market for them to publish a volume every year or even every other year although the last Marx guide was published in 2011.

The new Lionel guide is over 3/4 inch thick. It contains the same seven sections as did the 2015 edition. It can still be called a pocket price guide as it will still fit into the back pocket of a pair of blue jeans. Still missing in this year's guide are the black section markings on the edges of the pages. That is a shame as it did make getting to a specific section of the guide quicker and easier.

Let's see how the prices fared, compared to last year, for the ten pieces of Lionel that I have tracked since 2007. It is my feeling that the market is relatively stable. Most values remained the same or changed minimally. There were two exceptions.

The 2343 AA units increased in price by \$20 in Good condition but dropped by \$6 in Excellent condition, with their values being listed at \$175 and \$465 for Good and Excellent condition respectively. The 2343 B unit, type B, lost value in both Good and Excellent condition. It is now listed at \$95 in Good condition - an \$11 drop from last year and at \$190 - an \$82 drop from last year in Excellent condition.

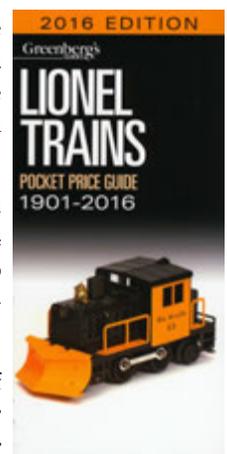
The five stripe, 2360 Tuscan GG1 and the green 2360 GG1 maintained or lost \$1 or \$2 in value over their 2015 values with one exception. The Tuscan unit increased in value by \$2.

The 746 with long stripe tender rebounded from last year, almost beating the 2014 guide's values. It increased from \$501 to \$520 in Good condition. The Excellent value increased by \$66 to \$940.

Every other piece that I track, regardless of whether they are pre-war, postwar, or modern, either gained or lost \$1 or \$2 or retained the same values as last year regardless of condition. Thus my previous statement that the market is stable. It will be interesting to see what the market does in the coming year.

The 2016 Lionel guide is available from Kalmbach Books, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI, 53186. It is listed on their website: <http://www.kalmbachstore.com>. The listed price is \$21.99. Their U.S. toll free number is 800-533-6644 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The phone number if you are calling from Canada or outside the U.S. is 262-796-8776 Ext. 421.

The guide is on Amazon for less than \$15, new, and on Barnes & Noble's website for \$19.98.



# FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

## Garages

RON SCHLICHT #02-109



Plasticville made three styles of homes with attached garages, Littletown and Skyline made one each. I'm not sure whether Lionel, Marx or any other companies made homes with attached garages. Among the many structures on my home layout are three MTH homes. Being cast in a residential setting I felt that there was something missing, garages.

As is the case of many kitbashers, and as I pointed out in other articles, **"NEVER"** throw away any structural parts with removable doors or windows. I'm getting too old, too shaky, too cranky, and definitely too impatient to construct them. Bah Humbug fits the season and the reasons for not having that type of frustration. It is one task that I don't really wish to make time for.

Call me a hoarder but I have a lot of broken PV parts (I did not break them). Among the broken structures were a Couple PV tri-level homes, parts were used for the two door, two car version. For the others, roofs from the parish church and a two story colonial were used. Although not used, for those who prefer a more scale look, the New England rancher has the best detailed roof of "any" PV structure. In spite of its assembly short comings, it is one of my favorite PV houses. Plasticville windows, doors, roofs, a package of lap board siding and right angle strips are the main construction ingredients. I also used some miscellaneous scrap plastic for a base material, wood could also be used. I tried to match the paint colors as close as possible to the MTH houses.

I don't know who manufactured the garages in the last two pictures. One was enhanced with a PV door, PV windows and paint.



# K-LINE KRONICLES

## Diner

ED BERG #02-123



I'm a bit of a diner nut, having plastic, tin, and ceramic diners in my collection and the Marx/K-Line diner is a fine example of the type found throughout the country – primarily in the east. It has a lot of character for a small building and it doesn't take up a lot of train layout real estate and so is easy enough to find a home for on even the smallest of layouts.

The holidays have been rather hectic and so this article is kind of short-&-sweet. Today we'll get a quick glimpse at K-Line's earliest diner. K-Line's earliest diners were silver and red just like the Marx originals, however, while the K-Line 'silver' is a dull and muted gray like that of a time-worn patina the Marx diner can be compared to the shiny stainless steel of a new building with a distinct 'swirl' in the plastic. When you think of it, that's rather appropriate as Marx came out with theirs first and so deserved a nice, shiny new look!



Shown below is the side, K-Line is on the left and Marx is on the right,



Wherever there is shrubbery present, whether it be on the diner or on houses, school house, etc., the Marx shrubbery is a light green, K-Line, a dark green. This can be seen in the photo on the right. Marx is in the foreground and K-Line is in the back.



There is no molded-in logo on the K-line piece, instead a peel & stick roof sign 'K-LINEVILLE DINER' with silver letters on red background, is included. Marx of course hand the separately molded "MARXVILLE DINER" sign.

Five unpainted figures in beige/tan hard plastic were included: man in overalls, girl jumping rope, boy roller skating, woman standing with a small child, and a milkman. The figures can be seen standing in front of the diner in the photo on the top right.

For interior detail, Marx molded figures on the inside of the "windows" with the intent that, when lit from inside, one could see the figures' silhouette's. Only three different patterns were used.



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## ALONG THE HO LINE

### Kits Packaged in One Color?

DOMINIC ST. JOHN #02-153



**H**ello everyone, I'd like to send my wishes for a good New Year to all. I know we can use it! With the way the year has started, it would seem we would have no other way to go but up. Let's hope so.

In this offering I would like to show more of my, latest, eBay finds. What I have added to my collection are a couple of kits that are all grey. There are two Switch Towers and a later Coaling Tower. It is the Coaling Tower that has me wondering if it was done when packaged. I know that I also picked up an earlier Coaling Tower in all brown but I could not find it! So, I'll stick to the grey kits.

Now I don't know what the chances are of Bachmann actually doing this. Still, it was intriguing to me. Did Bachmann package kits in one color and not the usual two colors? Was there a chance that left over parts in the same color were used and packaged for sale? Why not? I'm sure good pieces were not discarded. Why would a complete kit appear on eBay in just one color?

The two examples I have to show are both Railroad Buildings. I picked up a 2619-100 Switch Tower kit that had two Towers in an all grey color. The stairs, doors, chimneys and platforms were brown. It is the walls and roofs of both kits that are all grey. As we all know, these buildings are commonly found molded in brown and grey. They are also easily found in opposite versions where the colors of the kits are swapped. If there is a grey body

it will have a brown roof. Or a brown body would have the grey roof etc.

What attracted me to this particular listing was the fact that there were two identical Towers in the one 2619-100 box. They were each in their own plastic bag. Both bags were the same. Both bags were opened at the end. The bags were identical to bags I have in other kits. Along with the parts, to the two towers, were accessories for each kit. There were two figures, two barrels and two signals with red and green lenses to be installed. So, there are two kits, complete in one box and the bodies and roofs are one color. What are the odds that these kits are the same and were not done on purpose? The seller was not a train enthusiast. If he were, he may have been just as curious as I was and made mention of the odd kit. That he didn't list the kit as an oddity tells me he thought it should be this way.



The second kit I came across in a 2808 Coaling Station. This one is even more unusual. It is all grey. There are no other colors packaged in the box. There are no brown parts! There is one sprue left and it has the two platforms still attached. The assembly directions sheet is also present. Again, I'm left to wonder if this is also done purposely. It just looks too perfect for it not to be.

So, that is it for this Villager article. If there are any opinions, don't hesitate to offer them. I'd like to know what others think. I'd like to know if anyone else has anything similar in their collection. If you do, please share. Thanks again and see you next time.

So, that is it for this Villager article. If there are any opinions, don't hesitate to offer them. I'd like to know what others think. I'd like to know if anyone else has anything similar in their collection. If you do, please share. Thanks again and see you next time.

Dom

A red and blue logo for Neely's Train Shop. It features the Lionel logo on the left and right, with the text "NEELY'S TRAIN SHOP" in white on a blue background. Below that is the phone number "814-942-2652" in white on a red background. At the bottom, it says "Lionel Value Added Dealer" and "Factory Trained Authorized Service Station" in white on a blue background. The email "Email: NeelysTrainShop@aol.com" and address "814 Green Avenue • Altoona, PA 16601" are also included.

**NEELY'S TRAIN SHOP**  
**814-942-2652**  
Lionel Value Added Dealer  
Factory Trained Authorized Service Station  
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A white logo for Hobby Haven with a black border. It features the text "HOBBY HAVEN" in large, bold, black letters. Below that is the address "2575 86TH STREET URBANDALE, IOWA 50322" and phone numbers "(515) 276-8785" and "(515) 252-0112 FAX". At the bottom, it says "(800) 697-1213 OUT OF TOWN" and the website "http://www.hobbyhaven.com".

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# CREATIVE USE OF DAMAGED PARTS

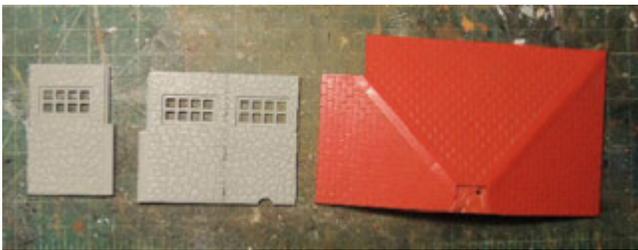
## Pizza Place

EDWARD L. JOHNSON #05-380



**G**reetings fellow travelers through the world of *Plasticville*, hope you had a happy holidays. Once again my supply of parts is almost depleted. There were only two useable parts left.

Half of a fire house roof and the back piece to the small store. The small store piece had been cut apart for a project that didn't materialize. What to do with these parts? After some positioning it seemed these parts could be made into a small store. What kind of store? Several designs were considered. Eventually an idea for a small pizza place seemed to work. The design is to place the model against another building. These are the only *Plasticville* parts the rest of the model would be constructed with wood and cardstock.



The model is under construction. The back wall is constructed with basswood. One side wall is constructed from the part with two windows. The other side used the remaining part and a piece of basswood. The back wall is covered with brick paper and an overlay†. The floor is basswood covered with a printed wood pattern. The toilet room is installed in the corner. In the foreground there is the clear door from the factory to be used as the entrance, a *Lego* part, it will become a pizza oven and a part from an unknown source for the front window.



This photo shows the progress for detailing the interior. All of the details are made from cardstock and basswood. The previously mentioned *Lego* part is built up to be the pizza oven. It is covered with brick paper. The dark material above it is the beginning of a chimney. There is a partition between the working area and the eating area. Also a small serving counter next to

the oven. It's not quite visible in this photo but there is a shelf over the sink.



The brick covered part lying down will become the facade front of the store. There is some more interior detail to added. The next installment will show this model ready for business.

Till next time,  
Eddie J

† A *Monster Modelworks* product "Concrete Wall Overlay"

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0550 King Add A Floor (Brown or Red) \$8	ON-5 Outdoor Necessities \$60
1987 Barn Scenic Classic (sealed) \$20	1624 House Under Construction, Lt grey \$40
1986 New England Rancher Scenic Classic (sealed) \$20	AD-4 Air Admin Bldg, Mint \$50
1983 Colonial Mansion Scenic Classic (sealed) \$20	1627 Hobo Shacks, \$75
1984 Colonial Church Scenic Classic (sealed) \$25	LCCA Air Admin Building, (sealed) \$20
1985 Log Cabin Scenic Classic (sealed) \$45	45986 LCCA Hangar, \$20 Sealed
1982 School House Scenic Classic (sealed ) \$25	

**No Box Kits, Complete**

Railroad Work Car \$10, SUB Station \$8, Barn \$8, Motel \$8, HOBOS 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) \$6 ea or 3/\$15,  
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 2/\$8,  
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  
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BUCKET, SAW HORSE, GINGERBREAD HOUSE BRICK (white, tan, choc), JACK & JILL PAIL,  
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FLAG OR CHAIN (red, yellow, blue, white)  
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**LITTLETOWN, BOXED, COMPLETE** #303 Street Lights, \$25; #304 fence \$15

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

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

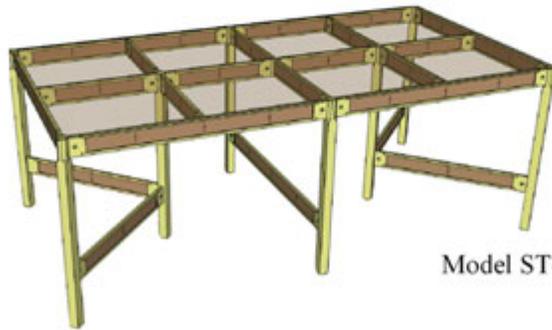
Dealer inquiries welcome for Plasticville Guides and Plasticville parts listed above.

Shipping: \$5 for books, \$6 for kits and ERTL truck, \$3.50 for parts, \$8 for LCCA Set

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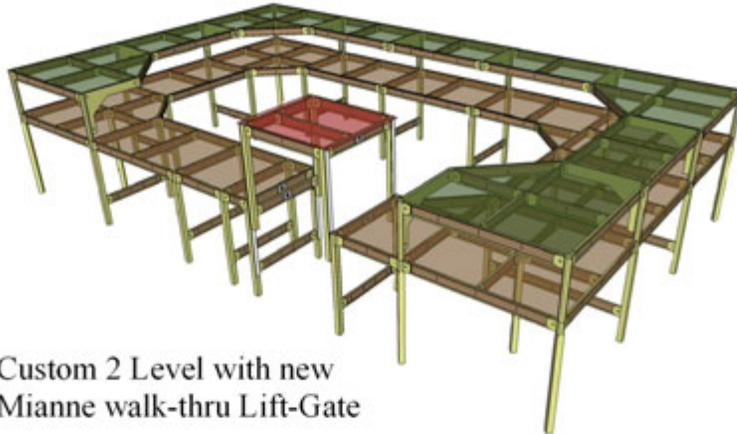
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# PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS

## The Proficiency Exam

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154



**B**y now, all of my readers can tell that this series comes to you directly from Plasticville School. Some of you probably wonder if there's a test in there somewhere. And I do thank you for those who have taken me aside at train shows to tell me how much you appreciate my writing. I know there must be many more of you, from what I hear. That said, it's time to snatch you up and buckle down for your Associates Degree proficiency examination.

The exam's purpose is to test your ability to research the material which has been presented to you. No intention is contemplated to see how smart you are (lest we all fail). So it is your course planner who is at test in this chapter: myself. If I have organized your material properly, then you will succeed.

Example One: first make up your own question; just say, "I wonder what..." Now, what building is your subject? If your question is qualified by a certain year group then ask yourself, "In which group can this building be found?" From your 200 courses' level go to that chapter. If your question is a general one scan the introductions or search the 100 courses' level. If your question is a comparative one search the 100 courses' level. Example Two: Churches were the first of the Shopping Unit noncommercial buildings to be given their own dedicated set. The country church (CC-7), a core component of the Shopping Unit (SU-4), was excluded from the Shopping Units to appear... a. in at least one Church & House Unit. b. never again in a boxed set. c. in the Residential Square 5604. d. in the Public Buildings (PB-8). This is an intuitive question. You may research each of the three chapter topic groups, and conclude that answer b must be correct. The correct answer is not directly stated, so far, in any chapter. You have deduced new information. No talking after this point, please turn your examination pages over and begin!

1. In the number era, the first two numbers of the set tell you?

- a. the price point
- b. the box size
- c. the classification
- d. the series

2. The first item Bachmann made which would become to be known as Plasticville U.S.A. was?

- a. picket fence and gate
- b. Christmas fence and gate
- c. platform fence
- d. toy church

3. What item can only be found in a boxed set?

- a. runway
- b. divider
- c. Instructions

4. True or false. Plasticville Railroad Accessories (RR-5) was packaged in a typical letter era medium size box.

5. Fill in the blank. Which boxed set received an award for it's educational value? \_\_\_\_\_

6. While the suburban station (RS-7) has a square see through hole for the chimney, how many suburban station (RS-8) variations are there in letter era boxed sets?

- a. one
- b. two

7. A boxed set which is so rare that it may have only been made as a salesman's sample is?

- a. Jr. Chief 198
- b. grey siren fire station
- c. Community Unit
- d. International Airport (AU-6), 1955

8. The pivotal year, 1955, was known for what general marketing innovation?

- a. brighter colors
- b. rock & roll
- c. The sets were renamed for their play value.
- d. The letter designation changed from letters to numbers.

9. What is the name of the first boxed set?

- a. Christmas fence and gate
- b. Build a house
- c. Community Unit
- d. The Original Plastic Village

10. As more and more stores were added to the Plasticville line, what was the effect on the Shopping Units?

- a. Public buildings were excluded.
- b. They became more expensive.
- c. The church was given it's own set.
- d. All of the above

11. If you wanted picket fence and gate, which boxed set would you choose?

- a. Community Church (CH- 9)
- b. Countryside Farm 5606
- c. Picket fence and gate never came in a boxed set.
- d. There are many such sets but they are none of the above choices.

12. True of false. There are boxed sets for HO and N, as well as O&S?

13. Where can the prototype of the turnpike interchange be found?
- Pennsylvania Turnpike
  - New Jersey Turnpike
  - In Governor Christie's office
  - Littletown
14. What do Turnpike 5601, Public Buildings (PB- 8) and Shopping Center (SP -8) have in common?
- They share the same size box.
  - They share the same tray inserts.
  - They have city government buildings.
  - all of the above
15. How many different citizens are included in the 16 citizens molded in color?
- 16
  - 8
  - undetermined (meaning in the future it still could be determined with further information)
  - I don't know the answer.
16. Most uncatalogued boxed sets are...
- HO
  - after 1960
  - come in generic boxes
  - all of the above
17. What is the source of the citizens molded in color?
- someone who hated the packing department
  - they came in a common PF box in 1953
  - boxed sets of 1955
  - a flock of birds told them.
18. What color is the ambulance in the Interceptor Squadron 5707?
- black
  - grey
  - orange
  - blue
19. What color is the post office roof in a Public Buildings (PB- 8)?
- red
  - grey
  - silver grey
  - test mold grey
20. In what year did box art technique hit rock bottom?
- 1960
  - 1950
  - 1957
  - 1956
21. When you need to replace a missing boxed set item...
- you should refer to the box top.
  - use a red roof airport administration building because the box art is always right.
  - you should do research.
  - just put in any currently available part.
22. The box size for the TA- 1 was used more than ten times. Of that size, how many were used in the number era?
- one
  - two
23. True or false. All boxed sets had dividers or trays.
24. Rate the following boxed sets from most rare to most common. International Airport (AU-6), 1955. Plasticville Railroad Center 1980. Roadside Rest 5200. Rural Unit (RU-4), 1954. House Unit (HU-7). Shopping Unit (SU- 5). Plasticville Highway Motel 5402.

Did I mention that the examination is a test of myself? I do hope that you did well. However, the purpose of this chapter is to have put myself on the line. If I have written into an article something which is wrong and you know that you are right, please contact the PCA with your information. I will be adding an appendix chapter next year or so, with corrections and further research, and details which could have encumbered the reading of the chapters. I want my readers, for the advancement of us all, to challenge what is written. Long ago, I was in a class of A students, so we were all. The instructor would ask questions of the class. Once, after he said one of my answers was wrong, I responded, "The answer may not be correct, but I think I'm right." the class erupted. I finished, with pause, "It may have been correct in Nazi Germany to turn in the Jewish, but that was not right." The room went silent.



1.	A	9.	C
2.	A	10.	D
3.	A	11.	C
4.	F	12.	F
5.	Plasticville Public Buildings (PB-8)	13.	B
6.	A	14.	A
7.	D	15.	D
8.	C	16.	D
		17.	C
		18.	B
		19.	C
		20.	D
		21.	C
		22.	A
		23.	F
		24.	They are already listed in order.

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# THE PCA CORNER STORE



## ITEMS FOR SALE BY THE PCA

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

### Personalized address labels

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels are available from the PCA. The labels will include the PCA logo in color and up to four lines of address. Each label is a generous 1 x 2 5/8 inches. The price is \$1.00 per sheet plus \$1.50 P&H for up to three sheets. Please add 20 cents per additional sheet over three.

### PCA T-shirt

Navy blue 100% cotton, short sleeve shirt T-shirt with the PCA logo printed on the front in white. The prices are \$18 for small through X-Large, \$19 for XX-Large and \$20 for XXX-Large, shipping included, for each shirt. Please order the next larger size if you are concerned with fit.

### PCA ballpoint pen

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

### Coffee Mug with PCA logo

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

### PCA Ball Caps

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

### Billboard Inserts

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

1. "Welcome to Plasticville" billboard inserts Six identical inserts, sized to fit Plasticville billboard frames depicting a 50's vintage auto passing a billboard on its way into town with the same greeting.
2. Seven different subjects plus one "Welcome To Plasticville" inserts including Friskies dog food, Motorola, Mercury and Lincoln autos, Sunoco and Gulf motor oil, and Eberhard Faber pink erasers. All are mid-fifties vintage.

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



Model Trains - RC Planes - RC Cars

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# THE PARTS BIN

## A PCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

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

*** O/S PLASTICVILLE ***	HP-8 Cape Cod	Miscellaneous window inserts - specify exact item needed
<u>RH-1 Ranch House</u>	<u>HS-6 Hospital</u>	<b>1629 Bungalow</b>
<u>CC-9 Church</u>	<u>1621 Motel</u>	<b>1627 Hobo Shacks</b>
1901 Union Station	<u>SG-2 Signal Bridge</u>	*** HO PLASTICVILLE ***
<u>GO-3 Large Gas Station</u>	<u>1624 House Under Construction</u>	HO-59 Ranch House
BK-1 Bank	<u>CS-5 Chain Store</u>	HO-74 Super Market
<u>1908 Split Level House - no downspouts</u>	<u>1504 Mobile Home</u>	2611 Cattle Pen
<u>LH-4 2 Story House</u>	<u>BL-2 Bridge &amp; Pond - specify lt, med, dk green</u>	2617 Cape Cod House
<u>LC-2 Log Cabin</u>	CF-5 Picket Fence	2608 Suburban Station
GO-2 Small Gas Station	<u>1957 Coaling Tower</u>	2904 Drive-In Bank
<u>SM-6 Small Super Market</u>	WG-2 Crossing Gate	2101 Block Signal,
RS-7 Suburban Station - no signs	1703 Colonial Mansion	HO-73 Signal Bridge
<u>PO-1 Post Office - no flags</u>	<u>LM-3 Station Platform</u>	2904 Toy & Hobby Shop roof
<u>SM-7 Large Super Market</u>	BB-9 Billboard - specify color & type	2700 Coaling Station - specify part by letter
1615 Water Tank - no spouts	<u>1907 Apartment House</u>	2801 Factory - water tower
<u>CC7 &amp; 8 Churches</u>	1805 Covered Bridge	2901 Split Level wall - A/E
<u>1906 Factory</u>	<u>1804 Greenhouse</u>	2976 Contemporary House
<u>SW-2 Switch Tower - no signs or smokestacks</u>	<u>1806 Roadside Stand</u>	2907 New Car Showroom
C-18 Cathedral	1007 Rustic Fence	School House
<u>PD-3 Police Station</u>	1034 Rustic Gate	Police Station
<u>FB-1 Frosty Bar</u>	YW-4 Yard Pump	Post Office
1622 Dairy Barn	<u>Swimming Pool (yellow)</u>	Railroad Work Car
1408 Windmill	Park Bench	Gas Station
<u>1623 Cattle Pen</u>	<u>Telephone pole</u>	Cathedral
<u>1617 Farm Buildings</u>	Shrub	House Under Construction
MH-2 New England Rancher	Street signs - specify text	Motel
1407 Watchman's Shanty	Wishing Well	Signal Bridge
<u>1900 Turnpike Interchange</u>	<u>Playground Equipment - specify piece &amp; color</u>	Street Signs - specify text
<u>1803 Colonial Church</u>	<u>Trestle Bridge</u>	Various doors and windows
<u>DH-2 Hardware &amp; Pharmacy</u>	1407 RR & Street Signs - specify text on sign	Window Inserts - specify what you need
<u>1620 Loading Platform</u>	Yard Pump	Switch Tower
1853 Drug Store	Outhouse - specify color	TV Station
<u>AP-1 Airport Hangar</u>	Spruce Tree	<b>Mobile Home</b>
<u>AD-4 Airport Administration Building</u>	Fire Truck - missing ladder or water cannon	<b>Split Level</b>
<u>SC-4 School House -specify large or small light holes</u>	House Fence	*** LITTLETOWN ***
<u>PH-1 Town Hall</u>	PF-4 instruction sheet	101 Super Market
<u>DE-7 Diner</u>	Miscellaneous doors & windows	105 Corner Store
<u>1618 TV Station - no globes</u>		106 General Store
<u>BN-1 Barn</u>		109 Railroad Station
<u>FH-4 Fire House</u>		

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

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

# THE PARTS BIN

A PCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

## First Call Parts



Parts available in The Parts Bin:

Parts in these photos are currently in The Parts Bin and are available to all members on a "first come, first served" basis. These parts will be available until April 31, 2016. Please note both the item and the photo in which it appears when making a request. Please be aware that many of the items shown may have been spoken for before I receive your request and thus are no longer available.

The only cost for these parts, as with all Parts Bin pieces, is packaging and postage. Buildings in photo 3 are glued and may not be complete.

Available parts continued from the previous page.

111 Loading Platform

112 School House

113 Church

110 Ranch House

**108 Gas Station**

\*\*\* MARX \*\*\*

Barn

Railroad Station

Super Market

Church

Fire House

General Store

Ranch House

2 Story House

School House

Ranch House

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

**Rustic Fence**

\*\*\* 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

Various HO industrial detail pieces - ask for description

**Frosted Flakes Billboard - frames only**

**Lionel #160 unloading bin**

**Lionel #160 unloading bin**

**Lionel #160 unloading bin**

**Lionel #160 unloading bin**

\*\*\* EMPTY BOXES \*\*\*

2617 HO Cape Cod

2803 HO House Under Construction

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

**SG-3 Signal Bridge**

**1406 Playground**

**LM-3 Freight Station**

**RS-8 Passenger Station**

**BL-2 Bridge and Pond Unit**

**Littletown 105 Corner Store - no lid**

# PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

**The Art of the Locomotive, Ken Boyd, 193 pages, hardcover, 11¼ × 9½, \$50. Published by Voyageur Press. Color and black & white photos throughout.**

I was intrigued by the title of this book when I received it for review. The dustcover showed not only the book's title and author but an early B&O 4-6-0 steam engine. I presumed that the book would discuss and illustrate the early steam engines and the penchant for decorating these engines with color, various metals, and unique names. My presumption was way off base.

This book is a compilation of photographs by the author. What sets these photos apart is that they were taken with a digital camera. "So what? I have a digital camera too!" you may say. The second part is that the author has digitally enhanced his photos to better represent their subjects.

The author explains in the introduction to this book that he is not only a photographer but also a digital artist. He states that his photography today, "typically includes a high quality camera or two, a few good lenses, a sturdy tripod, and plenty of digital media".

In some of his photos he has removed all background images and placed the locomotive on a white background. In other

**Show Trains of the 20th Century, Fred Dahlinger Jr., 126 pages, soft back, 10¼ × 8½, \$29.95. Black and white photos throughout. Published by Iconografix through its Enthusiast Books division.**

Just viewing the cover of this book piqued my interest. The preface to the title on the front cover read, "Circus World Museum presents". My initial impression was that this book would contain photos of the multitude of traveling circuses that I remember as a youngster. I was wrong.

The illustration on the cover is an artist's rendering of the unloading of the Johnny J Jones carnival train. Not a circus train. Yes, Johnny J Jones did exist per a quick Google search.

There is a three page introduction that also includes the usual acknowledging of those who helped make the book a possibility. Oddly enough there are no chapters. One merely dives into the photos and their captions starting on page 7.

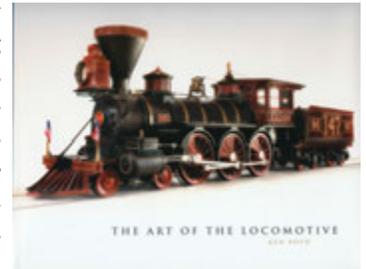
The term show train is somewhat vague as to what would constitute such an entity. The author does an excellent job of covering the various trains in this category. He includes photos of well known show trains such as Buffalo Bill's Wild West Shows and Barnum & Bailey's circus trains. He also has included lesser know shows such as Pawnee Bill's Wild West Shows and Colonel Cummins Indian Congress. There are photos of a traveling firefighting show, a traveling theater troupe, and a minstrel band, just to name a few.

The average size of the photos is 5 by 9 inches. Each has a highly informative caption. In some instances the caption relates to the

instances he has replaced only the sky with a more pleasing image. There are instances where background images are upsized. In one photo of the Union Pacific Big Boy number 4012 he superimposed a second image of the locomotive on the photo to give both a quarter view as well as a nearly full frontal view. Some of the photos have even been changed from color to black and white.

This is a unique book of which I know of no others that are digitally enhanced photos. I enjoyed viewing the photos and reading the captions. In many instances the pieces being photographed are in such an area that only by the author's enhancement of his photos can we truly see the beauty of the pieces.

**The Art of the Locomotive**, is available from Voyageur Press at <http://www.quartoknows.com>. Their site contains links to various online retailers in both the U.S. and the U.K. I found it on Barnes & Noble's website in hardcover format at \$34.70 and in Nook format at \$28.99. Amazon's website offered it in hardcover at \$23.27.



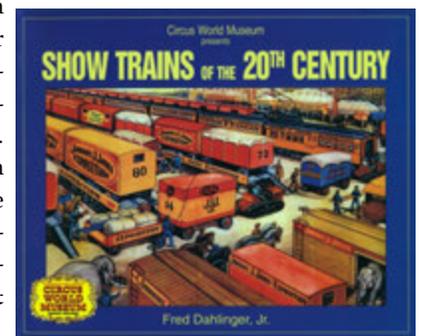
company who designed and built the illustrated car. In other instances the caption gives a description of the usage of the car, such as an advertising car or advance publicity crew car. In most cases the caption also lists the date of the photo and its provenance. The photos are for the most part presented in chronological order by date and range from 1895 to 1970.

I enjoyed reading the book and now have a trivia question, based on the caption of one of the photos in the book, that I will pose to you.

The question: How were horses loaded into the stock cars so that they would not fall over during abrupt changes in train motion?

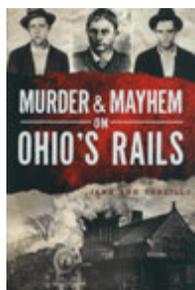
The answer: They were packed in solid, facing the side of the car and from one end of the car to the other. I doubt that practice would be approved today.

I did not find this book listed on the Enthusiast Books website. I am presuming that it has been removed due to it being out of stock and that it will be added back when a new supply is available. It is listed on Amazon's website for \$23.44 but a bit of sleuthing showed one company offering it for \$14.46. It is listed at \$18.14 on Barnes & Noble's website but through their Marketplace option. Not directly from Barnes & Noble.



**M**urder & Mayhem on Ohio's Rails, Jane Ann Turzillo, 126 pages. Softbound, 6 × 9 format, \$19.99. Published by The History Press. In a nutshell, this is a compilation of ten short historical narratives related to train robberies and murders perpetrated against various railroads with an Ohio connection.

People most generally think of train robberies as being something related to the Old West as portrayed in many movies. One would rarely think of train robberies in Ohio or other Eastern States. This book was written to bring to light in one volume a few of the more interesting, bizarre, or brutal robberies. The author even makes a case for the very first train robbery, occurring shortly after the Civil War, to one in Ohio. (Ohio & Mississippi). The length of stories range from six to 20 pages. They are in a chronological order. Each chapter has black and white photos related to the story. I believe I counted at least five different railroads as being victims of the robberies.



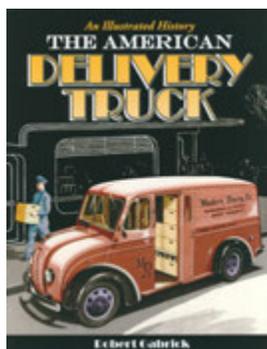
The first robbery was against the Ohio & Mississippi railroad on May 5, 1865. This is the robbery that the author makes a case for as being the first train robbery as it was five years before the first western train robbery. This was a robbery in which no one was physically hurt. Only valuables that the passengers could not hide from the bandits as well as money in the express car was taken.

Other robberies were more disastrous, especially for the expressmen riding with the safes in the express car. In one instance the

**A**n Illustrated History of the American Delivery Truck, Robert Gabrick, 128 pages, soft cover, 8½ × 11, \$36.95. Published by Iconografix through its Enthusiast Books division.

There are times when a book will appear on my doorstep that is not plastic village related or related to trains be they prototype or models. This book is one of those instances. This book was included with two other books that were train related.

This book is one of nearly a dozen by the author related to trucks. It begins with a dedication and the usual acknowledgements and an introduction. The author decided to forego the usual lengthy photo attributions. Instead the photo attributions list combinations of letters such as AACA (Antique Auto Club of America) and AC (author's collection) following the captions. I found this unique and quite pleasant since there are times when photo attributions in other books are almost a long at the caption.



There are six chapters in this book. The first three chapters are a chronology of sorts in that they begin with the rationale for using vehicles as opposed to horses and progress up to 1914 when Reo introduced a truck it called a Speed Wagon. Chapter 4 was extremely interesting to me as it discusses the trucks designed for house to house delivery marketed by Divco, White, and others. Seeing photos of the Divco trucks brought me back

expressman allowed a former expressman who had been recently fired to ride in the express car. This was against company rules but was quite often overlooked. Sadly the expressman was murdered for the money in the safe.

The last Story relates how Alvin "creepy" Karpis carried out what the author titles as the last great train robbery in 1935. I am presuming that she is referring to train robberies with an Ohio connection. Karpis was named Public Enemy Number One by Herbert Hoover, replacing Doc Barker in 1935. This is one of the longer stories and goes into quite a bit of detail as to how Karpis planned for months how to pull off the robbery. Incidentally, Karpis was not a US citizen, but a Canadian.

The author has done a good job of researching some robberies that took place over 100 years ago. It is easy to read as the facts are presented with minimal embellishment. It is a unique book in that I have not seen a compendium of train robberies associated with a specific locale before. I enjoyed reading the book and believe you may also.

**Murder & Mayhem on Ohio's Rails** can be purchased directly from The History Press. I also noticed that on the back of the very last page in the book that it is also available from them as an e-book. Barnes & Noble's website lists the book at \$15.99 as well as it in Nook format for \$9.99. The same prices are listed on Amazon's website for the hard copy book or in Kindle format respectively.



memories of my childhood neighborhood as there was an individual in my neighborhood who drove a Divco on a daily basis delivering milk.

Chapter five discusses larger trucks but with capacities no greater than about 3 tons. Chapter six is a photo gallery of various custom built bodies installed on various truck by Boyertown Auto Body Works of Boyertown, Pennsylvania. A brief Google search revealed that the company was in business from 1872 until sometime in 1990 and that the Boyertown museum is in the former main factory building.

Although not train related I enjoyed reading the book and picking up small tidbits of knowledge such as Graham Brothers was a division of Dodge Brothers. It is also a great reference if one wishes to model delivery trucks between 1900 through about 1953 and need representative graphics from those years.

**An Illustrated History of the American Delivery Truck**, is available on the Amazon website for \$26.86. It is also listed on Barnes & Noble's website with a price of \$27.11. It does not seem to be listed on Enthusiast Books' website at the present time.

# THE VILLAGER CLASSIFIED ADS

## FOR TRADE

Ending November 2016

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. J7, Lancaster, CA 93536. villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

## FOR SALE

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

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](mailto:johnln@netins.net)

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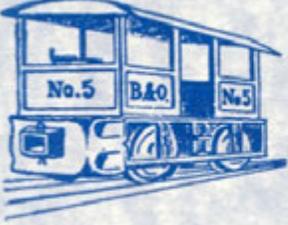
## THE FREE PCA CLASSIFIED ADS BRING RESULTS!

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

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

The ads, up to 50 words, are free to members and contact information is not included in the word count. Ads in the For Sale or Wanted categories must be plastic village related. Items other than plastic village pieces such as trains or non-plastic accessories are not allowed. Ads in the For Trade category may contain toy trains or other items providing plastic village pieces are being traded or sought as one side of the trade. (Plasticville for trains or Department 56 for Plasticville.)

It is suggested that the names of pieces being offered in the classified ads follow the names found in reference material such as price guides or catalogs.



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### WANTED

#### 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](mailto: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 72<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:johnln@netins.net)

#### Ending November 2016

Wanted. One Littletown #303 street light. [rnkotoski@yahoo.com](mailto:rnkotoski@yahoo.com). #13-818 Rich Kotowski, 2836 Hunter St. Angles Camp, CA 95222.



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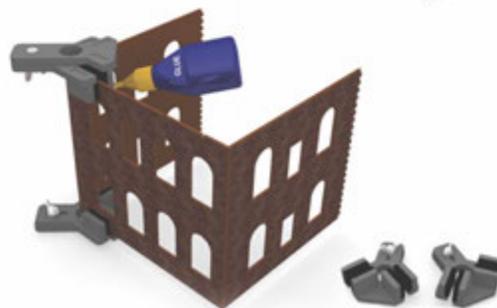
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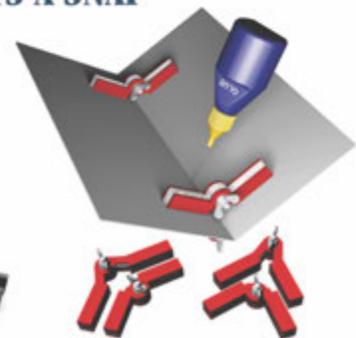
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