



# THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 15

May 2016

Number 2

## WIN A PCA 5TH ANNIVERSARY TWO STORY HOUSE!

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

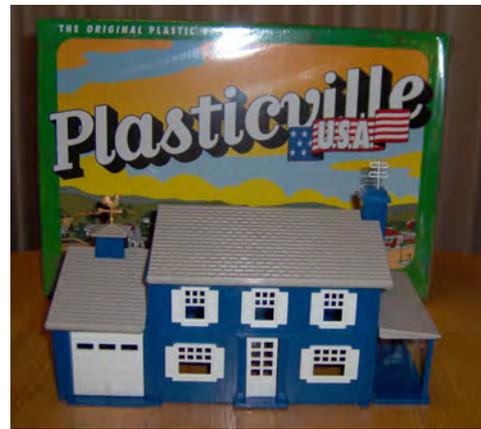
The PCA recently received a donation of a still shrink-wrapped Plasticville Collectors Association 5th Anniversary Two Story House. The donor gave it to the PCA with the stipulation that it had to be offered in a lottery rather than to the highest bidder. His thoughts were that in doing so that all interested members would have an even chance of winning the piece rather than someone with significant discretionary funds. With the wishes of the donor in mind the Executive Committee has set a modest price for the house at \$75, plus shipping.

There are two ways by which you can be included in the lottery:

- Send an email to [pca@netins.net](mailto:pca@netins.net) if you wish to be entered in the lottery. Please include in the Subject line: 5th Anniversary House Lottery.
- For those of you who do not have Internet access you may mail your desire to be included in the lottery to: PCA, Attn: 5th Anniversary House Lottery, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207.

The winner will be determined July 1, 2016 and notified by email or First Class mail as applicable.

All entries must be received no later than June 30, 2016 to be included in the lottery.



## TAKE A GUESS SOLUTION - # 1958 UNION STATION

Several members, responded by email with a guess for the mystery box presented in last quarter's newsletter. The correct answer is the *Union Station*. The box is labeled "UNION STATION BUILDING KIT" in red block lettering. It has the paper sticker clock, (model 1958) based on the directions included in mine (which is sealed in a bag). A few members got the answer correct, interestingly almost all members that answered correctly stated that they had one but did not know where it came from. One member reported that it possibly came in a Williams train set, but he was unsure. Unfortunately, I have no idea what the origin is. If anyone has additional information they would like to share please email [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org).



### The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

**President:** Chris Matthy

**Vice President:** Frank Ross

**Webmaster:** John L. Niehaus

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

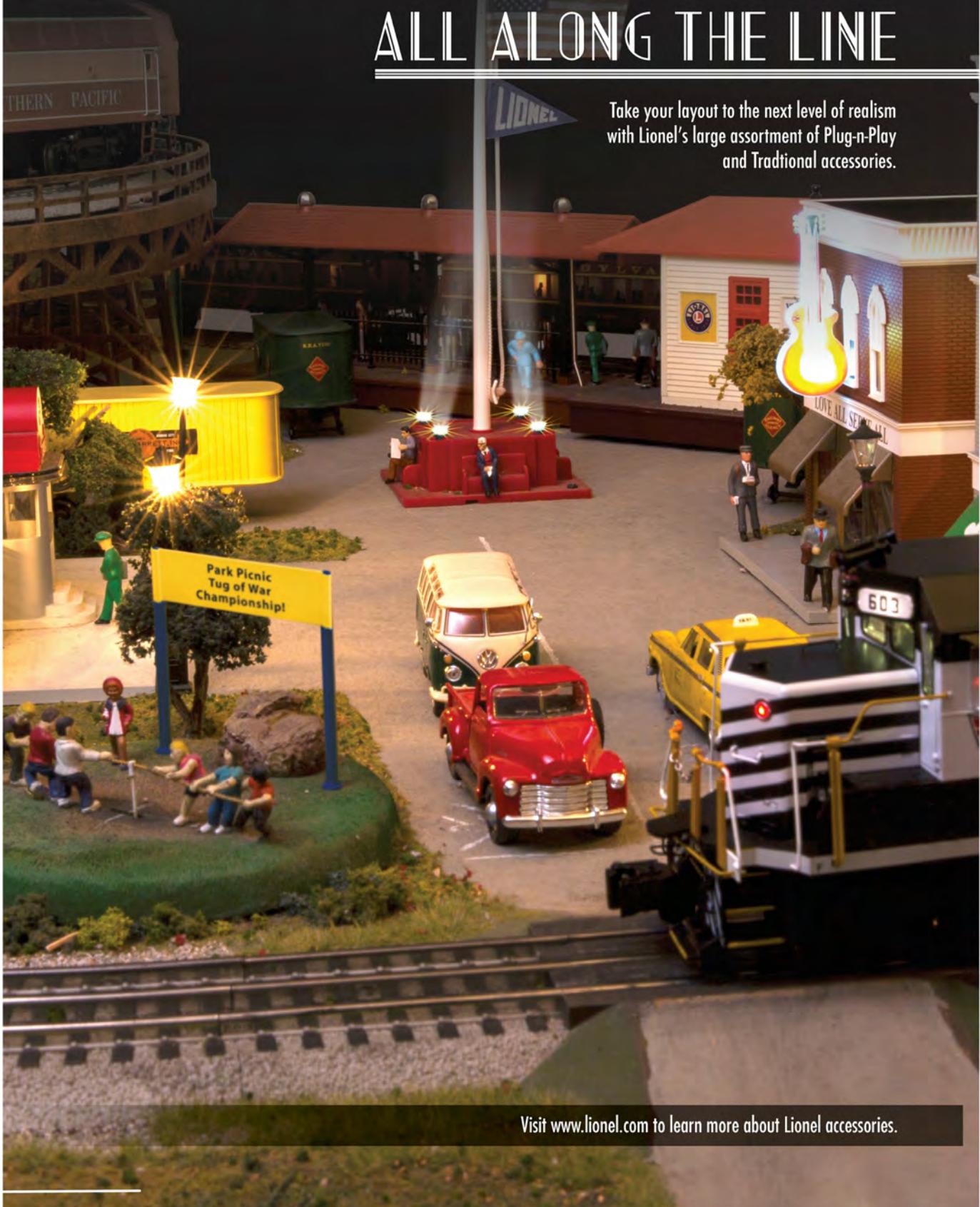
**Secretary/Treasurer:** John L Niehaus  
**Newsletter Editor:** Matthew Harvazinski

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



In my first President's column I told how I made my way back to Plasticville. The next part of the journey was very different, because it was all about people. I started to attend Greenburg train shows in my area and paying attention to Plasticville, especially dealers who specialized in buildings and parts. The first person I met was the late Frank Jescavage, also known locally as Plasticville Frank and The Mayor of Plasticville. My budget wasn't big, but he carried lots of interesting accessories that didn't dent the wallet too much, and I started to learn a little. I also made the acquaintance of the late Bob Schleicher, Sr. He had some fascinating items, some pricey, but he knew a lot. It was nice to meet his son, Robert Schleicher, Jr. at an Allentown show a few years back and share my memories of working with his dad.

I graduated to Plasticville University when I met Dave and Scott Horner (see picture). Dave and Scott are a wonderful father-and-son story, but that's for another time. It was Dave who was able to show me the variations I was reading about in the Plasticville publications. Thankfully, my budget was a little larger, because I was seeing Dave two or three times a year at shows, and he would greet me with, "Do you have..." Of course, I usually didn't. Sometimes I would go home with four or five variations of the same building. As time went by, Dave even became comfortable with me finding my own way



through their boxes under the table while he courted other customers. And, I could always leave my purchases behind his table 'til closing time. I would definitely say it was Dave who helped turn me into a true collector. Even when I went to Ohio for a number of years, we corresponded and I placed some orders. Now back in PA, it has been good to reconnect with them — I just spent an hour sitting and talking with Dave last month.

I have been fortunate to live in a place where I could mingle with these folks. Now you could make the point that the people I mentioned were all Plasticville dealers — but the truth is they were Plasticville collectors before they ever thought of being dealers, and they still are (or were). They each have (or had) a passion for these plastic buildings and their history, which is exactly what our PCA is all about. That's why I really enjoy reading the little articles or seeing the pictures of how you share your passion with others, be it at train shows or community events or wherever. Who knows which of you may be the Frank or Bob or Scott or Dave or Bill in a newbie collector's life?

To change subjects, I just completed my second Exec. meeting, and the first I ran. We spent almost half our time on the website, which serves not only the members but curious collectors as well. There will be a time (soon) when this subject won't take as much time, but right now it's on the front burner. We also started discussion on our 20th anniversary, only 3(!) years away, but some things need a lot of time to happen. Your Exec. Committee is serving *you*, so I hope we are doing some things that increase the value of your membership—and maybe get you to invite a friend to join as well.

Chris Matthy  
PCA President

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## UNUSUAL COLORS

Have you come across a Plasticville piece in an unusual color? Take a look at the photo to the right, police station chimney tops in light and dark grey, and green sirens! If you have information about these contact [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org), or e-mail a photo of your unusual pieces!



## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



At last, spring is in the air. After a reasonably short winter in southeast Pennsylvania (with a 2 foot snow storm thrown in for the fun of it), I'm eager and ready to face the spring season.

I took advantage of the cold and windy weather through the winter, and have been busy in my basement building up a pair of decent workbenches, and then the framework for my next train layout using 2x4's for legs and cross-beams to mount the plywood. I guess that I've come a long way from when I was a teenager using a single 4x8 piece of plywood raised off of the floor on legs that screwed into brackets that were attached to the bottom side of the plywood. That table wasn't very sturdy, but it was the best I knew how to do at the time. This new layout structure is a whole lot sturdier, and will be over 300 square feet on the main level.

The reason I'm rambling on about that first layout structure is because that effort resulted with my first two train Lionel layout that was stuffed nicely with all of my Plasticville structures that I owned.

In 1960, Lionel had a layout contest that was advertised on the back cover of their catalog. They were awarding cash, and a total of 500 prizes for layouts that complied with designs they presented. Well, my brother and I entered the contest, and the following summer we received in the mail, a 464 Lumber Mill.

Anybody could have simply mounted track on a piece of plywood and submitted a picture of it to Lionel to enter the contest, and I bet plenty did.

I'm sure that the addition of the Plasticville buildings, and piles of lichen sprinkled around the table made all the difference with becoming one of the winners. The Plasticville structures just brought the layout to life, and became a little world of its own.

I attended a few train layout open houses last December in the Lancaster, PA area. That seems to be a common activity here around Christmas time when various train clubs of all gauges open their doors to the public so they can show off all of their efforts. All of the layouts that I saw were either fully scenicked, or in the process. One particular S gauge layout utilized Plasticville buildings throughout, but I didn't see any buildings that had been modified or scratch-built to create an original piece. I always am interested when I see an article in a train magazine or on a layout showing a modified Plasticville building being turned into something other than what it was originally intended to be.

With that said, please feel free to submit any ideas or pictures of scratch built Plasticville or other manufacturer buildings to *The Villager* so we can all share your creativity and knowledge. I know that the newsletter usually shows articles of this nature, and I know that I certainly enjoy them, and I bet a lot of other members do as well.

I'm looking forward to the next York train show in April, and I'll report any unusual findings there in my next report.

As Lou Palumbo always says, "Keep searchin'."

Frank Ross  
PCA Vice President

## LOGGING ONTO THE PCA WEBSITE

### THE WEBMASTER

There seems to be some confusion as to how to log onto the PCA website as I periodically receive emails and phone calls for help. I hope the information below will make logging on a snap.

Included are illustrations and instructions for logging on using Firefox and Internet Explorer. They are the two browsers that I use. Feel free to contact me at [webmaster@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:webmaster@plasticvilleusa.org) if you have issues with a different browser.

Here is the login window that you will see if you are using Firefox as your browser. Disregard the text in the window. Enter your assigned user name in the User Name field. The cursor will be at the beginning of the User Name field when this window opens.



Press your Tab key to move the cursor to the Password field. Enter your assigned password. It will display as dots rather than the actual characters you type then click on OK.

You should now be logged onto the PCA website and should not be prompted again for your user name and password during your browsing session.

Here is the login window that you would see if you are using Internet Explorer as your browser.



Disregard all of the text in the window. Enter your assigned user name in the User Name field. The cursor will be at the beginning of that field when the prompt opens although not shown in the illustration.

Press your Tab key to move the cursor to the Password field. Enter your assigned password. It will display as dots rather than the actual characters you type then click on OK.

You should now be logged onto the PCA website and should not be prompted again for your user name and password during your browsing session.

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



Some of you have expressed chagrin that a PCA 15th anniversary piece was not made. It was decided by the Executive Committee in a previous meeting that we would forego a piece for our 15th anniversary but would definitely have something produced for our 20th anniversary in 2019.

One of the major issues in creating a special piece is that it takes approximately two years from the time a decision is made to offer a piece to the actual shipping of the piece to members. There also the restriction that we can only request a special run using the molds currently in production. Look for an announcement soliciting suggestions for a 20th anniversary piece in the February, 2017 issue of *The Villager*. Please wait until that time to offer suggestions to ensure they are recorded.

It seems that the PCA has not made the intent of *The Parts Bin* clear. I have received quite a few requests since the last newsletter that do not specify the exact piece needed. Many of the requests state, "Everything you have" or, "Send it all". I have even had newsletter pages returned with buildings highlighted but, again, no list of needed parts. *The Parts Bin* is just that - an aggregation of parts that are available to members. Please be sure to be specific as to the part you need when making a request for parts.

Keep your classified ads up to date. Please be sure to contact [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org) or send him a letter if you have an active classified ad and you move. Please keep me informed also if you move so that I can ensure that your membership record is current

I recently received membership renewals from a few members who were paid up for this year and even into the future in some instances. Your membership expiration date is included on your membership card as well as your member number. That date is also on the label of all mailed newsletter envelopes. As a final option you can always look up your expiration date in the online roster on the PCA website. It is also a quick way of finding other member's contact information.

Our display advertising is down a significant amount over last year. Do you know of a company or organization that may profit by advertising in *The Villager*? Display ads are what helps to keep

our membership dues low. If you have an idea of a company or organization who may be a candidate for advertising in our newsletter contact me at [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org).

I am also looking for a person who is willing to contact our current advertisers near the end of each publication year to determine if they intend to advertise in the coming year as well as finding new advertisers. This position will not be a "cold call" for our current advertisers as I will introduce you to those who have a presence at York. I will also notify those who do not have a presence at York that you will be contacting them instead of me in the future.

As I noted in my previous comments, vision issues may preclude my continuing as your secretary/treasurer at the end of my current term. This position is a bit time consuming but very gratifying as it and the newsletter editor position is what keeps the PCA a viable organization. Contact me via email, telephone, or regular mail if you feel that you would like to be our next secretary/treasurer.

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of James A Lyle, #10-651 in late January. James was the person behind the [wardiejay.com](http://wardiejay.com) products and Jim Lyle's Toy Trains. He was a Vietnam veteran and succumbed to health issues associated with that conflict.

I would also be remiss if I did not note the passing of Harry Lee Riley (H Lee Riley) of Bachmann industries. Lee was the vice-president of production planning for Bachmann. I received an email from Bachmann on March 3 announcing his retirement. Imagine my shock when I received an email noting his passing the next day! He passed while working at his desk. Lee was one of the persons with whom I visited when I was a guest at their Philadelphia facility a few years ago. He, along with the vice-president of marketing, had been most instrumental in ensuring that our 5th and 10th anniversary pieces became a reality. He will be sorely missed.

Questions, comments, concerns, volunteering: feel free to contact me at [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org). By phone at 515 771-6888 or by mail to Secretary/PCA, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021.

## EDITOR'S COLUMN



One of the difficulties with leaving my article until the end is that I run out of space! But running out of space is a good thing, it means that we have numerous members contributing content to the newsletter. I would still like to see more submissions from members, particularly in the ¼ to ½ page range, these are ideal for space fillers and don't require too much effort. Just snap a photo and write a little about what you discovered.

Matt Harvazinski  
*The Villager* Editor  
[villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org)

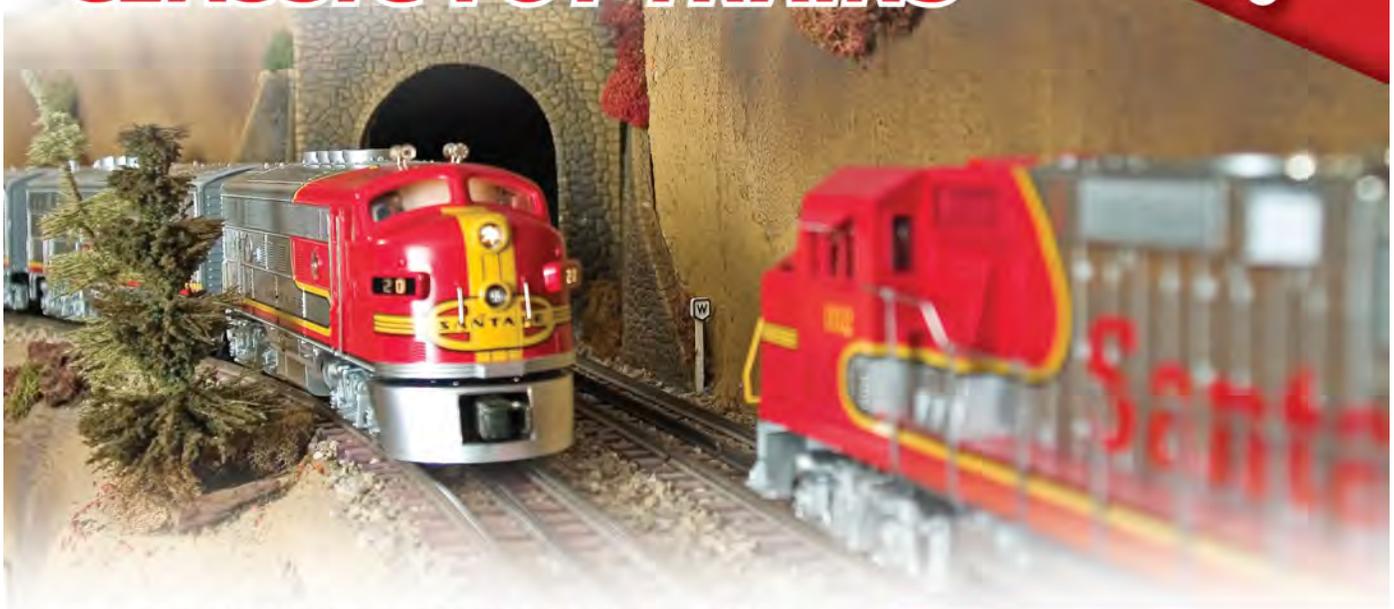
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# APRIL 2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The April, 2016 Executive Committee meeting was called to order on April 7, 2016 at 8:00 PM, Eastern time, by President Chris Matthy. Those in attendance were President Chris Matthy, Vice President Frank Ross, Immediate Past President Doug Giliatt, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus and website developer Doty Shepard. Absent was founder, Joe Kutza.

## Old Business:

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

Doty reported that we will need to shut down the website for three to seven days to move the website to the new server. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to migrate the website to the new service provider the week of April 10. During the transition time the website will be completely unsecured, allowing both members and non-members to access the entire website.

She also reported that the monthly provider price, if prepaid, is \$6.95 for the first three years. There is also a migration fee of approximately \$10, per domain name. We have two domains thus the total cost will be approximately \$20. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to allow Doty to accrue the expenses incurred in moving the website and domain names in the name of the PCA.

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

A physical address will not be added to the website on the recommendation of the web developer. She stated that including a physical address could generate unwanted solicitations by mail.

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

Secretary Niehaus reported that he provided Anthony Santay, #09-568 with a list of approximately fifty members who had not renewed their membership for 2016. His calling succeeded in the renewals of about twelve of those on the list.

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

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has found a source to pad print the vehicles for a range of \$5.00 to \$5.50, based on quantity. He also stated that now that he has found a printer at a reasonable cost he cannot find either vehicle at a reasonable price.

### **Photos on website**

Secretary Niehaus noted that he has a number of photos from a member that can be added to the website after they are reviewed and their file renamed to ensure the web developer adds them in the correct location on the website. It was decided to refrain from submitting additional photos until the completion of the website transition.

## New Business:

### **20th Anniversary piece**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to offer a 20th anniversary piece. A second motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to solicit member suggestions for what they would like to see for a 20th anniversary piece in the February, 2017 edition of *The Villager*.

### **Color changes of production pieces for 20th anniversary of the PCA**

President Matthy suggested that the PCA contact Bachmann and determine if it would be possible for them to change the color of existing production pieces in 2019, noting in their catalog and possibly on the packaging that the color change was in honor of the 20th anniversary of the PCA.

### **Advertising revenue**

Secretary Niehaus reported that advertising revenue for 2016 is down by nearly \$150 over last year. He noted that the majority of advertisers who failed to renew did so due to no or minimal response to their ads.

### **Secretary/Treasurer position**

Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus informed the Executive Committee that it is highly unlikely that he will seek reelection to his office for the 2018/2019 term.

### **Refrigerator magnet with PCA logo**

After a discussion it was agreed that the cost to have refrigerator magnets created for sale would not be financially feasible due to perceived minimal sales.

### **Offer to quote imprinted items from a member**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he received a letter from Rich Behring, #15-954, stating his availability to quote items such as pens, mugs, and caps for the next reorder of those items. He also suggested offering HO scale vehicles and freight cars with the PCA logo.

The Executive Committee duly recognized his letter and will include him in future quotes for products currently in *The corner Store*.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM, Eastern Time  
Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, April 10, 2016

# FROM MY DOORSTEP TO YOURS, WHAT IT TAKES TO GET THE PARTS BIN PARTS TO YOU

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

So how do I maintain all of these parts in a manner that makes it easy for me to locate what a member requests? I use a spreadsheet that lists each individual building or accessory. The spreadsheet also contains the bin location of each of the items. There are presently ten bins containing parts plus a couple of boxes with "overrun" for some buildings. The bins are actually twelve gallon flip top boxes. From what I have recently received and have yet to catalog I am presuming that there will be an addition of at least two more bins.

The photo to the right shows some of the boxes I received in May and June of last year. I estimate that every month I receive two to three boxes of various sizes from shoe boxes to the large box in the photo. My first step upon receiving a box of parts is to send the person donating the parts a receipt. As the PCA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization any donations can be used as a deduction when filing Federal and State income tax forms.



The parts in the boxes are sorted out by building and manufacturer or accessory on my family room floor as seen below.



The sorted pieces are then transferred to their respective Ziploc bags in the parts bins in my garage as seen below. "But how do you know into which bin the parts should go" you may ask. I maintain a spreadsheet listing what buildings are in what bin. If parts for a building already in a parts bin are being added I highlight that entry on the spreadsheet. I "pencil in" at the bottom of the spreadsheet any buildings not currently in The Parts Bin. After all of the parts are stored I update the electronic version of the spreadsheet according to my annotations on the paper copy.



The next step is to update the list that you see in each edition of *The Villager*. I use my printed spreadsheet and change the list using the following criteria. If the spreadsheet showed additional parts were added to an entry on the list I underline that entry. If the spreadsheet showed a new item added to it then I also add it to the list in bold. Hopefully this makes it easier for members to determine if they should send a request for parts.

Well the parts are now stored but how do they get to your doorstep? Any emails regarding parts are printed and a number hand printed on them noting the order in which they were received. Mailed requests are put into the pile in their respective receipt order as well.

Then it is off to the garage to find parts. But before I go I again print the current spreadsheet and take it with me as well. I start with the oldest request and pull any available parts on that list. These parts go into a plastic shoe box along with the member's list. This process is repeated until all requests have been filled as best as The Parts Bin allows.

I should note that requests such as, "If almost complete", "Everything", or "Any parts you have" are generally not honored as The Parts Bin is intended to provide one or two - maybe three - needed parts to complete a building. That has been its philosophy since its inception.

If the last piece listed on the spreadsheet is taken while working the requests then that entry is highlighted on the printed spreadsheet. The highlighted entries on the paper spreadsheet are then deleted from the electronic version. They are also removed from the list to be published in the next edition of *The Villager*.

The shoe boxes of parts come back into the house for packing and mailing once all of the requests have been worked. Heavy duty mailing cartons are usually what is used for shipping boxes seen in the photo to the right. This is to ensure that the parts arrive safely on your doorstep. There are times when I believe it takes me longer to determine how to pack a request to ensure all parts arrive safely than it did to pull the parts.



Now that the parts are packaged it is off to the local Post Office to mail them. The people at my favorite Post Office are some of the nicest Postal Service employees I have ever met. They check each package and write on the package how much postage is required and if it is Priority or otherwise. They then hand them back to me. I then return to my car to affix the stamps that you see on the packages and then I take them back in for mailing. I don't know who has more fun with this process, they or me, as they always good-naturedly give me a hard time especially when an address is not in their "official" database.

The next step after I get home is to update a spreadsheet showing to whom I just sent parts with their respective postage cost. I then contact the individual informing them of how much to send to the PCA for the box soon to be on their doorstep.

My last step is to update the spreadsheet when I receive payment.

## 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 by-laws 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 July 1, 2016.

- Kevin K Kramer, Clear Lake, IA
- John D Zimmer, Seville, OH
- Louis D Baldi, Sistersville, WV
- Alvin Strausner, Willow Street, PA
- David E Bachman, Allentown, PA
- Frank A Onorato, Cape May, MJ
- Wendy E Kermen, Michigan City, IN
- Cork Smoker, Willow Street, PA
- Chadwick P Susan, Mifflinburg, PA
- Robert E Gongleski, Vestal, NY
- William Wagner, South Lyon, MI
- Robert F Nowak, Edgerton, WI
- Jules A Cosenza, Schwenksville, PA
- Frederick J Casali, Land O Lakes, FL
- Michael Singer, Mount Pleasant, PA
- Dennis L Phillips, Green Bay, WI
- Robert F Palmer, Mashpee, MA

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- 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

### Christmas Museum

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# K-LINE: BOXES, BAGS, AND BLISTERPACKS

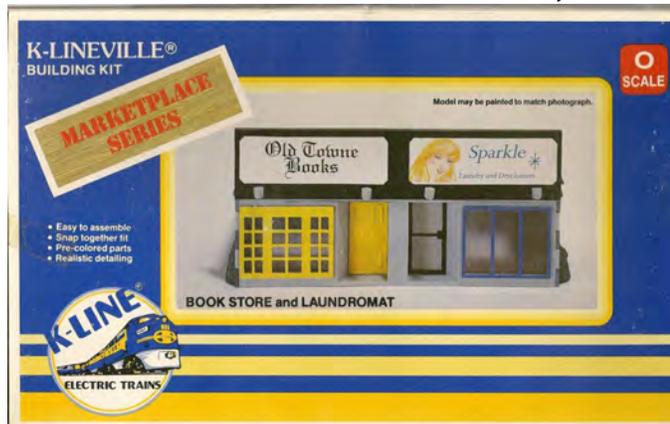
## Box Type 6

DONALD W. HUOVINEN #11-714



This was the first box K-Line used for their Marketplace Series. The Marketplace Series was introduced in the 1987 catalog, although not listed as such. Only as “BRAND NEW K-LINEVILLE® BUILDING KITS” and featured 5 new buildings: K-4101 Book Store and Laundromat, K-4102 7-11 Convenience Store, K-4103 Hair Salon and Pizza Parlor, K-4104 Bakery and Liquor Store, and K-4105 Hardware Store. These new buildings were created by manufacturing a new mold for the new building front and utilizing the mold for the Supermarket for the sides, rear, and roof. The illustrations in the 1987 catalog are artist’s illustrations, not photos, however they are fairly accurate representations of the buildings produced except for details on the side walls and building colors. In the 1988 catalog these buildings were described as “Brand new designs” and were officially designated as the Marketplace Series. The Series now included the K-4100 Supermarket and K-4081 Diner with figures. The illustrations in the 1988 catalog are photos. The box used for the new Marketplace Series I have designated as Box 6.

front



This box is relatively uncommon; highlights/details of the box are as follows.

- The box has a blue background and 3 yellow stripes running across the lower portion of the box front. The stripes are increasingly wider toward the bottom of the box.
- The now familiar blue and yellow K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo is in the lower left corner.
- The boxed item is pictured slightly off center to the right and is surrounded by a yellow border stripe. The item description, but not the number, is shown within the picture.

- K-LINEVILLE® BUILDING KIT is in the upper left corner.
- MARKETPLACE SERIES is superimposed in red over a wood grained rectangle in the upper left corner.
- The only reference to the size of the building is “O SCALE” in white on a red square background in the upper right corner.
- On the lower left portion of the box front the item is described as “Easy to assemble/Snap fit assembly/Pre-colored parts/Realistic detailing”
- The top and bottom of the box are identical. The left third has “MARKETPLACE SERIES” superimposed in red on a wood grained background. The center third has a blue background with K-LINEVILLE® and the item description printed on it. The right third has a picture of the boxed item.

top



- The right and left ends of the box are similar to the top and bottom however on the left third, the product number is printed in white above “MARKETPLACE SERIES. On the right end only, in the middle third, “MADE IN TAIWAN” is printed in white.

right/left ends



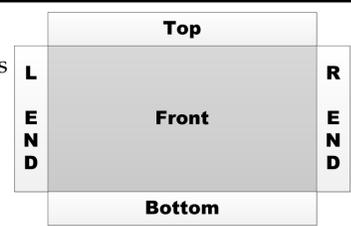
- The back of the box is blank.

There are three items of special interest about this box. The first is that the items are now “Made in Taiwan” representing a shift to overseas production.

Secondly, on the photo of the item on the front it is stated “Model may be painted to match photograph”. The model included in the box is definitely not nearly as colorful as the box photo. I’m sure a number of purchasers were disappointed when they opened the box and found a dull unpainted plastic building. But

### 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



for variation collectors this is a bonanza as there are a number of unpainted colored plastic combinations. This box was actually a harbinger of things to come as in the next generation of buildings some of the components would come pre-painted.

Finally the third item refers to building size. The only reference to size is "O Scale". For the casual buyer (Moms, Aunts, etc.) of trains this is meaningless. I have often seen mismatched sizes of trains and accessories. K-Line had previously referred to their

buildings as being suitable for K-Line and Lionel trains which certainly is far more meaningful. All of the buildings I have observed are the same size: 10 1/2" x 6 1/2" x 1 5/8".

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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## DID YOU EVER NOTICE: CITIZENS MOLDED IN COLOR

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI #11-682

**H**ave you ever seen a Plasticville citizen molded in a color other than flesh? Robert Spivey mentioned their existence in his article *The Homes (The Villager Vol. 14 No. 4)*. The primary source of the citizens molded in color is the 1955 master units. These citizens are very difficult to find, and not a lot of information is known about them. Only the original 16 citizens from the PF-4 set were available in color.



Shown above are the seven common colors that the citizens were available in. The definition of common is a purely empirical study based citizens I have located. These seven colors are the most plentiful by a wide margin. From left to right the colors are, light blue, dark grey, light grey, dark green, red, light brown, and brown.



What is very interesting is that some odd ball colors have turned up. The photo to the left shows different browns. The right two figures in each row are the light brown and dark brown that were seen above. Also included is a cream newspaper boy and a tan mailman. I have located 14 and 15 light and dark browns respectively,

while only finding 1 cream and 2 tans.

There are also two very distinctive reds. The common red shown in the first photo and a bright red color. Shown to the right is the common red on the left and the bright red on the right. I have located 15



common reds and just 2 bright reds. The source of bright red, cream and tan citizens is unknown. Were there just different runs that resulted in some variation in the color? Or is there another source of the citizens molded in color?



The final odd ball color is white. The photo shows four men reading a newspaper in light grey, white, light blue and dark blue. Dark blue is difficult to find compared to the others but is not considered an odd ball color. That is because there is a second known source for citizens molded in color. That is the



very hard to find Make 'N' Play sets from 1964-1965. Included in these sets were dark blue and yellow people. These sets were advertised to include either 4 or 6 citizens depending on the set. It is unknown if a subset of PF-4 citizens were used, or if a random grouping of citizens was included.

Are you a collector of citizens molded in color? Have you found any other odd ball colors not mentioned here? Please feel free to submit a description of your findings or your comments to *The Villager*.

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# PCA - PLASTICVILLE ON A GRAND SCALE - THE MODEL TRAIN EXHIBIT

CHRIS MATTHY # 01-73

Hidden inside a funky building called the Merchants Square Mall, on an industrial street in Allentown, PA, is an attraction known simply as the Model Train Exhibit\*. The main attraction is a 75'x35' O gauge railroad with, if my count was right, 22 loops of track (plus four subways), 2 of which are elevated. There is a second O layout which is about 35'x15', and an HO layout about 30'x15'. Between the 3 displays there are 40 trains running at once.

The display was a 2½ year project by the humble owner and operator, who I just know as Tom, and some of his friends, including a master modeler. Tom uses four weekdays a week (and closes in April and May) to maintain the display, then opens for ½ hour shows on weekends, with ½ hour rests for the trains in between. Best of all, your \$8 ticket (kids \$3) is good for as many shows as you like.

There are over 1000 buildings (including Brooklyn's Ebbets Field), 30,000 lights, and lots of animation, including a huge 60 piece amusement park as well as 20 operating ski rides on the smaller O layout. The main streets that cross the front of the layout, probably 25' in length, are detailed all the way across with buildings, lights, vehicles, and people. There is also a 24'x16' "lake" in the center of the layout with billowing cotton clouds above it. Twice in the show the lights dim to nighttime and a thunderstorm rolls in, complete with thunder claps, flashing lightening, and RAIN!!

But the reason I share this in *The Villager* is because of the creative and unique use of Plasticville on the main O gauge layout. In photo 1 you will see a large drive-in movie, running "The Polar Express", of course. The entrance gate is a Plasticville Turnpike Exchange. The projection booth and restroom buildings on two sides are Plasticville Motels. Finally, a Platform Fence surrounds the screen area. You can see just a piece of the amusement park in the top left of the picture. Notice, too, the Ace hardware store at the top center of the picture which shows how ceramic buildings were used as façades for larger scratchbuilt buildings throughout the display.



The second use of Plasticville took me some time to recognize. In photo 2 you can see, behind the elevated track, a large apartment building, easily 4'x2'. Since I couldn't see the back I am guessing there are either five or six towers of Plasticville Apartment Buildings used as façades, connected by scratchbuilt grey walls. Used this way, the toy buildings take on a truly scale appearance.

The third use of Plasticville, which was too large and too hidden to photograph, was a gigantic factory, around 4'x8' – that's right, as big as a small layout. It was a single story building with a flat



roof that used Plasticville School back walls as the main walls, interspersed with Plasticville Firehouse front walls used as loading doors.

Finally, in photo 3 over on the HO layout there was another amusement park, again very large, which used clusters of HO Hardware stores as the gift and snack shops.

Whenever I visit club layouts or displays I look for Plasticville, especially if it's used in a clever way. I left this display with my jaw on my shirt!



\* [www.modeltrainexhibit.com](http://www.modeltrainexhibit.com)

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# FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

## New England Ranch House

RON SCHLICHT #02-109



Of all of the Plasticville structures manufactured, I think that the New England rancher is one of the best when painted. Eh Gad, he said painted. For that matter, I can't think of one Plasticville building that doesn't look better when painted. On my present 255 sq. ft. layout there is not one item that has not been touch by an evil hand with a paint brush. However there are some shelf pieces that have not been desecrated. Collectors may take heart in that. Being a, more or less, a toy train enthusiast versus a scale purist, Plasticville was my first choice as structures for my original fledgling layout. Many of the structures were from my childhood, which is an ongoing condition, which will eventually be replaced by senility. The layout has expanded four times, not exactly to the joy of my wife.

In a time beyond comprehension, I allowed my young children to play with some of the buildings. This of course ended up in the near destruction of some of the more intricate Plasticville buildings. The one, and more treasured, that incurred the most damage was the New England Ranch. It was close to Katrina. After taking "my toys" away from them, I started some reconstruction with the broken leftovers. See example 1.

When you want to create a neighborhood subdivision, there are few Plasticville residential homes available. This is where paint becomes the great emancipator. With diverse color schemes and a little scenery you can make various homes appear to be quite different. See examples 2 & 3.



# K-LINE KRONICLES

## NIB & Cop Shop

ED BERG #02-123



Caveat Emptor - 'Let the Buyer Beware'

### NIB

'New-In-Box' (NIB) is a phrase that often sets the avid collector's blood rushing: the chance to own something vintage that hasn't yet been opened or assembled. But to the novice collector of vintage K-Line BEWARE, 'New-in-Box' does not necessarily equate to 'Complete-in-Box'. While gathering the materials for this photo series one of the frustrations of collecting early K-Line came home to me once again. It is not an exaggeration to say that at least 30%-40% of apparently brand new buildings were missing parts, or in some cases had too many parts. Back in the day, before Internet hobby shops sprang up and before the advent of eBay, I can remember going to the hobby shop and buying K-Line buildings. I'd bring them home in anticipation of adding something cool to my fledgling 3-rail hobby only to find windows, doors, and other key components missing. Most of the time the contents were in heat sealed clear plastic bags so it was easy to determine that no one at the hobby shop had tampered with the packaging. There's just no way of sugar-coating this - early K-Line quality control stunk! For the collector my advice is: if you like and want K-Line, don't let this deter your collecting efforts; and by the same token, don't blame a seller (eBay for example) for believing that the item is complete because it's fairly safe to say they simply will not know the vagaries of early K-Line.

### Cop Shop



The K-Line #K-4041 Police Station is every bit as nice as its Marx predecessor. K-Line chose not to copy the earlier Marx colors and the earliest color variation is the gray walls with white roof/doors/windows combination. Later releases would be in different colors like cream walls with blue roof/doors/windows, cream walls with gray roof/doors/windows and red painted brick detail and perhaps more of which I'm unaware. There is no K-Line logo molded into the parts nor any peel-&-stick appliques with K-Line printed on them. The flag is a peel-&-stick applique. The set is fairly faithful to the original Marx set having the Police and Fire Station Accessories set (old Marx PL 543 Mold Group) which includes:

1. Lamp post with 'ASH' street name
2. Street sign with 'OAK' and 'ELM' street names
3. Parking meter

4. Police call box

5. Mail box

6. 'FIRE ZONE' sign

7. 'STOP' sign

8. Trash can

9. Bench

10. Fire hydrant



The figures include:

1. Policeman handcuffed to criminal (2 each) in dark blue soft plastic
2. Newsboy in dark blue soft plastic

However, the set does not include the Man with Broom, or Motorcycle Policeman as found in the earlier Marx sets. As K-Line never made these two figures they apparently were not part of the tooling acquired from the earlier Bankruptcy Court auction. It's interesting to note that the Policeman handcuffed to Criminal figure is one of the toughest to find Marx figures, but readily available as a K-Line issue.

Also, I've scanned the window inserts (shown on the next page) to provide you with details not usually shown. They are a fascinating, and sometimes frightening, look at how Marx captured real world drama in what was supposed to be a mere child's toy.





Window inserts from the K-Line #K-4041 Police Station.



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### **Boxed Kits, Complete**

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0400 Mobile Home (Blue or Cream walls) \$9	HF-2 Dealer box of 12 Fence boxes, \$150
0500 KING Apartment House (Brown) \$30	0600 KING Windmill \$20
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) \$4545985	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, 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) \$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  
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,  
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**LITTLETOWN, BOXED, COMPLETE** #303 Street Lights, \$25; #304 fence \$15

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# THE YORK REPORT

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

The Spring, 2016 York meet is now history. There were twenty attendees at the 11:00 AM meeting and six at the 5:30 PM meeting. There were four non-members at the morning meeting. Each was given an information packet/membership application.

There would probably have been more people at each meeting had the announcements been made in a timely manner and containing the correct times. An announcement was made at 11:30 that we were meeting at 12:00, Noon. It has been two years since we met at that time. There was no announcement for our 5:30 meeting even after I went to the announcement desk and had our announcement notice updated to show 5:30 instead of 5:00. Hopefully the announcements will be one half hour before our meetings at Fall York.

There were some interesting items at each meeting. Let's start with the 11:00 meeting. Buddy Meade showed a rare #402 Littletown Ranch House and Yard Accessory Combination in its original box. Oddly, the listing for the set in the Littletown catalogs call it a Unit rather than a Combination. He also brought along some Marx Telephone Poles that were made in England. This was molded into the bottom of the pole bases as well as the Marx logo.



Ray Scanland passed around a Bachmann "Spirit of Christmas" diorama. This is a pre-Plasticville piece containing a foam base onto which is a glued together CC-9 Parish Church as well as figures in various colors and shrubs with spikes molded into the bottom of each for pressing them into the foam base as desired.

Member Michael Dailey brought a slightly larger than HO bank. It was all plastic and had the name Brentwood Savings Bank molded into the "front yard". Unfortunately the photo I took of it was too blurred to use in this article. There were no manufacturer markings on it but it did have two patents or pending patent numbers that could possibly lead to the manufacturer.



Vice-president Frank Ross passed around a very nice condition 1953 Plasticville catalog. Another member whose name I failed

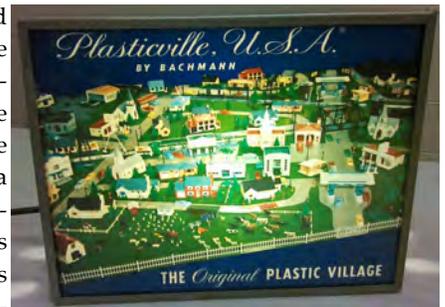
to gather passed around a pristine, boxed, Storytown 3 Men In A Tub kit, complete with the often missing rhyme sheet.

There was also some discussion regarding the prototype gas station for the GO-3 large gas station. One of the attendees stated that he lived in the area near the Bachmann factory and that the station was on the corner of Erie and L streets and that he recalled the lettering on the tall column to be red. With that information it may now be possible to do some research and find photos of the station.

Now for the 5:30 meeting. As one can imagine, with less attendees the Show N Tell was considerably smaller. Buddy Meade again showed his Littletown set as well as a just acquired lighted Marx billboard. I showed a cream colored CC-9 Church that is missing the steeple pieces. It is definitely Bachmann and I am presuming that it is pre-Plasticville as the imprint on the inside of the back wall says Bachmann.

I have saved the best for last. Member Susan Shaw brought in a lighted Plasticville counter display. Not only does it light up but the light cycles on and off. She was gracious enough to bring this piece to both meetings. I believe this to be a late 1950's piece based on a similar item, #6000 shown on page 11 of the 1956 catalog. The difference between Sue's and that in the catalog is the illustrated buildings.

"What about Plasticville prices", you ask?" Prices were all over the place. The same person who has had a 60% discount sign on his table for at least the last two York meets still had the sign and still had high priced pieces even with the 60% discount. A common blue over white RH-1 Ranch House marked \$40 is barely a bargain even when discounted to \$16. Others had similar high prices while I found, and purchased, some items at a very reasonable price. I bought an unboxed Farm Implement set for \$5 as well as a boxed, with insert, set of 12-A Set of Road Signs for another \$5. My very subjective impression is that some people have yet to acknowledge that Plasticville as well as train prices are not what they were before the recession. Others are now marking their pieces with prices commensurate with the current market.



I give this York, as it relates to Plasticville, two and one half gold bars. 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!



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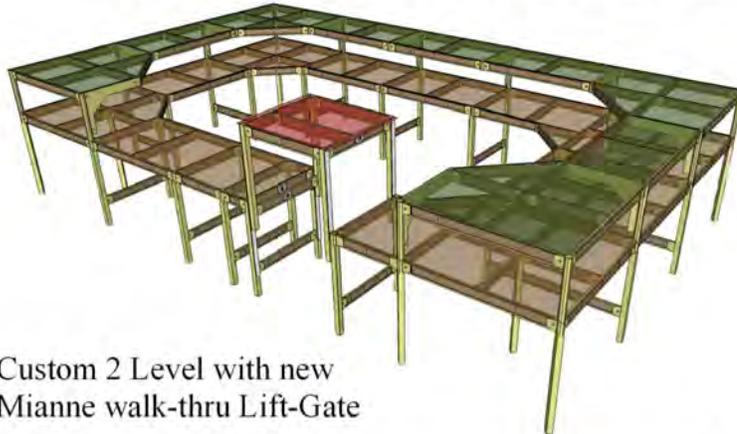
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# CREATIVE USE OF DAMAGED PARTS

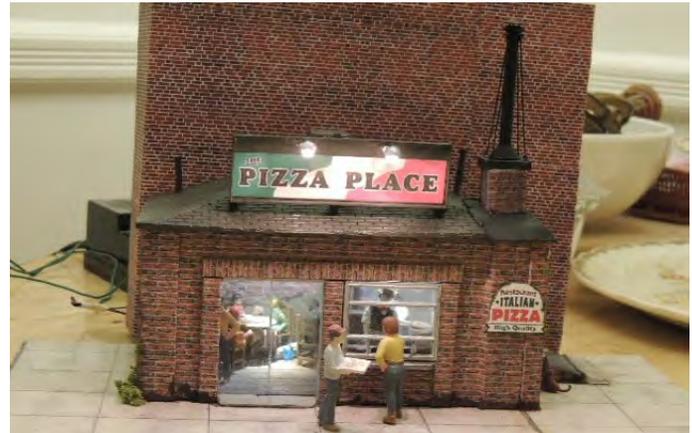
## Pizza Place, Part II

EDWARD L. JOHNSON #05-380



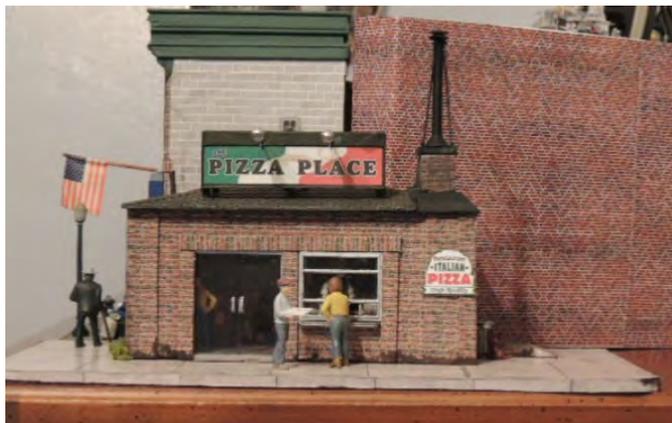
In this installment we review completion of the *Pizza Place* model. Previously we saw only two parts (roof and sides) were from Plasticville models. The rest of the model was built with card stock and wood.

This photo shows the completed interior details. The pizza chef has removed a fresh pie from the oven. In the right corner two businessmen are discussing business. On the left corner three young ladies are celebrating their friend's (woman in green suit) first assignment as a flight attendant. Further to the left is a woman in red waiting for a date. The interior details are made with wood and cardstock. The tables and chairs are plastic doll house parts.



The model has interior illumination from two LEDs (*Evan's Designs* products). The sign is illuminated with two short arm lights from *Walthers Cornerstone* #933-2310. These lights are HO scale but fitted well with this model. The sidewalk is a paper product made in Germany by *Busch*.

This photo was taken while the room was darkened. The interior lights show up much better. The entrance door is from the factory model. Looking behind the door we see the date for the woman in red has finally arrived. When this model



This photo shows the completed façade of the *Pizza Place*. A customer has purchased a slice of pizza. A man is carrying a pizza home. The model was designed to be placed against another building. In this photo it is against the *Metropolis Post Office* and a brick wall. The brick wall was placed to give the model a backdrop. The signs were copied from the Internet and the smoke stack is from *Grandt Line*.

was completed my supply of *Plasticville* parts was exhausted. Shopping around on eBay I purchased a stock of various *Plasticville* parts. There were no complete models in the batch of parts so some "Imagineering" will be required.

So till next time *Eddie J.*

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# PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 206

## The 5400 Series Stations

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154



Plasticville boxed sets of the 5400 series were small groups of railroad structures. They coexisted with the larger 5600 series of railroad centers. These smaller sets provided a stand alone railroad scene for the smaller 4x8 layouts of the postwar era, or as whistle stops along the way of the larger complete model railroad systems. They were a significant improvement in both content and shelf appeal over the early TA-1's and TA-2's.

Toy Train Accessories 5400, cataloged in 1956, likely was developed and marketed as an economy version of the railroad center product group. The small twelve inch square letter era box was not to survive into the number era stations. The 5400 type box could hold one more core component structure than that phased out box did; in the case of the Toy train Accessories 5400, that building was a switch tower, 1954. The set also included a green roof with solid brown platform suburban station with two green benches, 1950, and a signal bridge, 1954. The small accessories characterized compositions related to signaling and communication. The accessories were a shiny black base crossing gate (with solid white not milk white arm), 1950, with a flagpole (a very ancient signaling device) displaying our most honorable symbol Old Glory, 1953. And for communication five solid brown telephone poles with diagonal braces, and two billboards one of white and one of green color, all 1950. The set is almost always found with the color ads, but the set can have leftover monochromatic ads and still be original.

Toy Train Accessories 5403, cataloged in 1958, was composed of the same core structures as the 5400, however the suburban station was updated to the brown roof with grey platform version. Because these smaller sets were likely produced and marketed for adding stations to a growing layout, "The Town that Grows and Grows", then this addition of a new color station would have made perfect sense. The small accessories were only a set of railroad signs, 1957, five solid brown telephone poles with diagonal braces and two green benches, both 1950.



Toy Train Accessories 5403 was packaged in a typical 5400 series box. The box color was turquoise over white separated diagonally. The dividers remained exactly as those of the 5400. The box graphics were also similar. This box was the last box of any set group to do so. All other boxed sets after 1957 had the more advanced box top graphics as noted in chapter 101, and chapter 205. The letterboxed rendering of contents depicted an accurate scene. Namely the suburban station was incorrectly retro pictured as the green roof brown platform variation. The switch tower was incorrectly pictured with the gray roof. The actual switch tower was always packaged with a roof that matched the station's exact roof. And, as always, the signal bridge was incorrectly pictured as test mold gray. This artistic license as a substitution had always been done to show the detail of the signal bridge which would otherwise have shown up as a black shadow. It's too bad the signal bridge was never made in gray because it would always have been styled for better layout photographs. Most of our members would dare not paint a postwar Plasticville item, but if I ever would use paint then that signal bridge would be the one. The letterboxed rendering of the contents was set on a dark green lawn under a cloudless blue sky. Shadows indicated a noon day sun.



Toy Train Accessories 5400 was packaged in a 14 1/2"x10 1/2"x2 3/8" typical number era box. Refer to Plasticville Boxed sets chapter 101 for detailed information on box types. The box color was vanilla buff over white separated diagonally. It's dividers were one 11"x3 7/8" tray, one 11"x5 3/4" tray and one 9 3/4"x2 5/8" tray. The letterboxed rendering of the contents was set on a pea green lawn under a light blue sky with billowing clouds. Shadows indicated a noon day sun. The crossing gate base and the signal bridge were incorrectly pictured as test mold gray.

### CORRECTION:

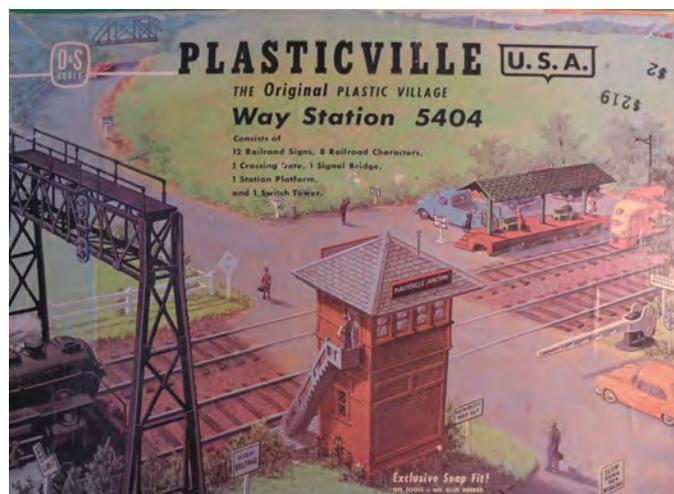
The Answer Key in Vol. 15 No. 1 had an error, the correct answer to question 18 is C, not B.

Plasticville Way Station 5404, cataloged in 1958, closed out the brief use of the 5400 series box. Plasticville Community Church 5401 and Highway Motel 5402 sets were still being sold as holdovers. The 5404 box top art was unique. The box top was a borderless dynamic scene of a small town commuter flag stop, with no baggage check or facilities. It's artist's presentation was similar to the 5607 Interceptor Squadron's format. "PLASTICVILLE" in bold letters was superimposed and centered over the artist's rendering, "U. S. A." followed on the same line and was enclosed in a logo shaped like a Federalist shield. The slogan "The Original Plastic Village" was printed on the line below. The set's designation appeared immediately below in bold letters, "Way Station 5404". The slogan "Exclusive Snap Fit! no glue - no tools needed for assembly" and a list of contents also appear on the box top.

The contents in and of themselves were quite unremarkable, leaving an impression when opened as a box only half full. This shelving strategy was not popular at the time but it is casually accepted as routine in our current era. Case in point examples are cereal, cookies, and the enormous boxes for Plasticville's 45000 series. The set's core contents consisted of a switch tower, and a signal bridge, both 1954, and a small platform, 1950. Both buildings were the brown roof variations. The set's accessories were eight railroad characters, 1958, twelve railroad signs, 1957, and a shiny black base crossing gate (not milk white arms), 1950.

In short, the 5400 series stations were useful stand alone groups to expand a child's layout. Plasticville U.S. A. had become estab-

lished as the "Town that Grows and Grows". The cataloged city buildings of the number era were significant and diversified enough to create several characterized towns. Each town could provide a visual stream to support many stations up and down the main line. The following kits are recommended to supplement the 5400 series stations: vehicles in a park and ride lot, citizens, a diner with phone booths, and a crossing shanty. In closing, it's too bad Bachmann never created a "Philadelphia and Plasticville Railway" train set for their stations. They always had a chance in HO scale, and with their recent acquisition of Williams Trains, a train set in the Golden Memories line would be possible.



## CLEANING THE RAILROAD

JIM STEED #01-55

In the previous edition of *The Villager*, our Editor, Matt, talked about the great fun he had with his father during the Christmas holidays on "cleaning" various Plasticville pieces and other structures on his Dad's layout. The procedure they used was to remove pieces from the layout, particularly the roofs, and place them in warm soapy water and rub, gently, with a small brush. Sounds like fun to me, especially while bonding with one's Dad. But, there might be another way. Or, maybe some pieces are in various areas of the layout that can not be easily accessed, making removal difficult, cumbersome, and just plain backbreaking, thus making the removal of a soap and water routine difficult to do.

I get this question many times as visitors visit my layout, The Great Georgia Central and Southern, in Blairsville, Ga. just north of Atlanta in the north Georgia mountains. They ask, "How do you keep it so clean?" My first reply right up front is, simply, "I don't let it get dirty!" Easier said than done. But, seriously, it works. You see, the layout is tucked into my home's lower level, which is in the mountains, the home also is on a hill. And that permits the lower level to be surrounded on three sides by the supporting walls of the basement. This translates to no windows on these three walls, thus only one wall has windows. Since dust loves light and sunshine, I keep the blinds closed, on that one wall, keeping the sunlight out. This indeed helps to keep the dust level down.

Secondly, keep what dust there is to a minimum. By this I mean, no sweeping, no work creating even the fraction of dust in the layout room. Keep all that work separate from the layout if possible. If I need to grind a plastic part, make sure you're in the workshop. Again, use common sense to keep the evil dust at a minimum.

Thirdly, if you do not want to actually remove the Plasticville piece from the layout, or the roof of a piece from the layout, I use a long handled lambswool wand to run out over the piece to be cleaned, careful not to use too much pressure to keep from knocking over other pieces, signs, or accessories.

This is by no way a better approach than what Matt and his Father did, but it may be a shorthand substitute. The wand



comes in various lengths and sizes and is available at most hardware or home centers. It's at least great for removing cobwebs from telephone poles, antennas, and church crosses.

So far, so good. Fourthly, I depend on my wife Gayle's used makeup foundation brushes. This is a big, fat, soft bristle brush. You can use it like the lambswool wand, but with more control. Just gently run it over the structures, letting it remove dust at will. As for the trains, it works well too. As a general rule, as the trains run around the layout, hold the foundation brush over the path of the train, letting the soft bristles touch the top of the boiler, cars, etc. Kind of boring at first, but it does get the job done. Keep doing it for every consist running.

Fifthly, as a general rule, every time you take an item off of the layout, convince yourself to dust it. Whether by rubbing it with a foundation brush, rag, toothbrush, just do it. You'll be amazed how many items get cleaned by just simply following this rule. And, voilà, a cleaner layout. As we all know, cleaning the layout can honestly be fun, especially with your Dad, as in Matt's case.

## PLASTICVILLE IN THE 2016 BACHMANN TRAINS CATALOG

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

I received a copy of the 2016 Bachmann Trains catalog just in time for me to include a report in this issue of the newsletter. The pages of the catalog for this year are again all oriented in the same direction. All of the catalogs since 2010 had been dual catalogs - Bachmann Trains and Williams - where one had to flip the catalog over to view contents of the opposite catalog up until last year. Conspicuously absent from the 2016 catalog is a section exclusively for the Spectrum products. A note at the bottom of the Table of Contents states that these products have been incorporated into their respective scale sections. Williams by Bachmann trains still enjoys its exclusive section.

The footprints for the various items are continued in this catalog. I recently had member contact me regarding footprints and was pleased to inform him that they were published in the catalog. This is the third year that the footprints have been published. I am probably safe in presuming that this will be continued in the future. Go to the Bachmann website if you have a need to know the footprint of any building as it is included as part of the item description.

The N scale buildings took a beating this year. There are only ten pieces listed this year. There were sixteen last year. Those no longer listed include the Farm House, Two-Story House, New England Ranch House, Car Showroom, Platform Station, and Water Tank. The price increase is \$1.00 across the board for the remaining buildings.

All twenty seven HO building kits listed in the 2015 catalog are still available. Other than the difference in the price of three pieces, the pages on the 2016 catalog are the same format as last year. The pieces with the increase in price are the : Cathedral, House Under Construction, and Platform Station. They increased from \$23.75 to \$25.00.

Seems there is bad news for the O/S built-Ups. There are no Built-Ups in this year's catalog. There are thirteen pieces listed

It doesn't have to be a boring job. You can reminisce about when or where you got that piece, or what Christmas Aunt Ethyl gave you such and such Plasticville.

I for one, do have a large layout at thirty six sheets of plywood in a 2,000 sq. ft. lower level (basement). So I do know the labor required, constantly, to keep the layout and all that Plasticville looking sharp. So, I do follow the five principles laid out above in keeping things tidy. And speaking of Plasticville, my first building was the blue Bermuda Ranch, followed by the barn and farm buildings circa 1950. Still have it all. In 65 years, I have collected for and on the layout (I think) one of every piece that Plasticville made, not by color or variation, but by type of structure, like ranch, barn, church, school, birdbath, one of every separate type, on the layout. I have no collector pieces on the shelf and in the box. Everything Plasticville is on the layout providing the citizens of Plasticville and Lionelville with good homes, worship facilities, schooling and recreation.

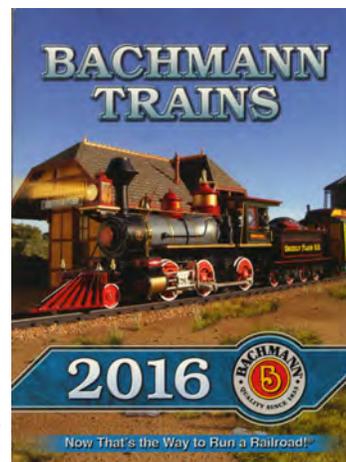
on the Bachmann website. Two of them have notes stating that they are sold out. As they are not in the catalog and some are "sold out" on the website it seems that this is probably the end of life for the Built-Ups.

There is good news for the O/S kits. All thirty one of the O/S kits listed in the 2015 catalog are also listed in the 2016 catalog. The better news is that none of the pieces saw a price increase.

The 2016 catalog is available on Bachmann's website as a downloadable PDF file. They have again graciously broken the catalog into two downloadable files. One is the Bachmann 2016 catalog and the other is the Williams 2016 catalog. This works out well if you only wish to review the Plasticville sections of the catalog. Plasticville is in the Bachmann catalog.

You don't actually have to download the catalog. Clicking on the *Catalogs and Brochures* link on the home page and then on the *Bachmann 2016 Catalog* link on the next page the catalog will open the catalog in your browser. You can download the catalog to your computer if you wish through a drop down menu that appears if you hover over the arrow at the top center of the page.

Searching inside the catalog in ones browser is a bit odd as one cannot navigate to a specific page. You must click the drop down arrow at the top of the page, enter Plasticville in search option, review which entry seems to be the one you want, then click on it. Click on page 190, 135, or 219 options to view the first page of the N, HO, and O/S listings respectively.



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# THE PARTS BIN - A PCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Various parts are available for the buildings listed on this page. They are offered free to members on a first come first served basis. The only cost is for the packaging and postage to mail any available requested pieces to you. Send an email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org listing the pieces you wish or mail your list to: The Parts Bin, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207. New additions to the list are in **bold**. Parts added to previous listings are underlined.

There are no complete buildings in the listings below - only parts.

### Examples of requests that will be processed:

Switch Tower - roof - brown w/o slots

Motel - rear wall - white

Coaling Tower - Part C



### Examples of requests that cannot be processed:

Bungalow - Yes

Littletown General Store - I'll take it all

Ranch House - Whatever you have

\*\*\* O/S PLASTICVILLE \*\*\*

Miscellaneous doors & windows  
Miscellaneous window inserts - specify exact item needed  
12-A RR & Street Signs - specify text on sign  
Airport Administration Building  
Airport Hangar  
Apartment House  
Bank  
**Barbecue - specify color**  
Billboard - specify color & type  
BN-1 Barn  
Bridge & Pond - specify lt, med, dk green  
Bungalow  
Cape Cod  
Cathedral  
Cattle Pen  
CC7 & 8 Churches  
CC-9 Church  
Chain Store (5 & 10)  
Coaling Tower  
Colonial Church  
Colonial Mansion  
Covered Bridge  
Crossing Gate  
Dairy Barn  
Diner  
Drug Store (1853)  
Factory  
Farm Buildings  
Fire House  
**Footbridge**  
Frosty Bar  
Greenhouse  
Hardware & Pharmacy  
Hobo Shacks  
Hospital  
House Fence

House Under Construction  
Large Gas Station  
Large Super Market  
Loading Platform  
Log Cabin  
Mobile Home  
Motel  
New England Rancher  
Park Bench  
Picket Fence  
**Platform Fence**  
**Playground Equipment**  
Police Station  
Post Office - no flags  
Ranch House  
Roadside Stand  
Rustic Fence  
Rustic Gate  
School House -specify large or small light holes  
Signal Bridge  
Small Gas Station  
Small Super Market  
Split Level House - no downspouts  
Station Platform  
Suburban Station - no signs  
Switch Tower - no signs or smokestacks  
Telephone pole  
Town Hall  
Trestle Bridge  
Turnpike Interchange  
TV Station - no globes  
Two Story House  
Union Station  
Watchman's Shanty  
Water Tank - no spouts  
Windmill  
**Wishing Well**

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

Cape Cod House  
Cathedral  
Cattle Pen  
Coaling Station - specify part by letter  
Contemporary House  
Drive-In Bank  
Factory - water tower  
**Fire House**  
Gas Station  
House Under Construction  
Mobile Home  
Motel  
New Car Showroom  
Police Station  
Post Office  
Railroad Work Car  
Ranch House  
School House  
Split Level  
Suburban Station  
Super Market  
Switch Tower  
TV Station  
**Union Station**  
Miscellaneous doors & windows  
Miscellaneous window inserts - specify exact item needed

\*\*\* LITTLETOWN \*\*\*

**Barn**  
**Cape Cod**  
Church  
Corner Store  
Gas Station  
General Store  
Loading Platform  
Railroad Station  
Ranch House

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 first request/first served basis. Please note both the item and the photo number in which it appears when making a request. Also be aware that the items shown may have already been spoken for and are no longer available.

Available parts continued from the previous page.

School House

**Southern Colonial House**

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

Barn

Church

Colonial House

Fire House

Gas Station

General Store

Railroad Station

Ranch House

RR & Street Signs - specify text

Rustic Fence - specify color

School House

Super Market

Telephone poles

\*\*\* SKYLINE \*\*\*

Ranch

Church

\*\*\* K-Line \*\*\*

Chicken Coop

L-Shaped Ranch

Ranch House

Two Story House

\*\*\* MISCELLANEOUS \*\*\*

Guidancetown USA building parts

Lionel billboard inserts - specify design

Lionel RR & Street signs (white) - specify text

Frosted Flakes Billboard - frames only

**Eldon road race barrier fence**

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

2600 HO Water Tank

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

1407 Watchman's Shanty - lid only

HO-59 Ranch House

SG-3 Signal Bridge

1406 Playground

Littletown 105 Corner Store - no lid

2402 Switch Tower

SC-4 School House

LM-3 Freight Station Kit

BL-2 Bridge and Pond Unit

Marx Colonial House

# Last Call Parts



Parts in these photos are currently in The Parts Bin and will be available for request until July 31, 2016. Please note both the item and the photo number in which it appears when making a request. Also be aware that the majority of the items shown in these photos, most likely, have already been requested and are no longer available. Buildings in photo 3 are glued and may not be complete.



## 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.*

## WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

I just read your recent column in the Villager requesting feedback. I guess the old saying is true - "no news is good news." I always enjoy reading the newsletter, particularly articles specific to Plasticville (like the large birds article in this issue). I have been acquiring/collecting Plasticville for well over 50 years and I almost have one of each variety ever made except for a few elusive rare pieces. I also have American flyer. I have a 4 x 16' layout that, except for the American Flyer track, is about 99% Plasticville (a couple of Littletown pieces). Coincidentally, I too have been cleaning my roofs over the past several days. Then on to the streets and vehicles. One suggestion is to include the officer's name in their columns (Yours and John's are anonymous). This would better help put a name to each of the officers, especially for newer members. Also, a very abbreviated "What Members are Saying" column has appeared in the last couple of issues. Isn't anyone saying anything? It has always been interesting. Also, the "Future Train Shows" listing is missing in this issue. This is always a good reference. Keep up the good work!

Tom Fritsch #01-4

« « « » » »

I have a question regarding the K-Line Convenience Stores, numbers 4100, 4102, and Lionel #6-22553. I recently received a list stating that all included pre-printed store interior inserts. None of mine (7/11, 7/24/Quality Quickmart have inserts. Only my Lionel 6-22553 has inserts 24/7. Can anyone provide me with more information on which had inserts and which did not?

Wesley Kidd, #09-584, (wrkidd2000@yahoo.com)

« « « » » »

Hello Rich, I just saw your request in the Villager. Your figures appear to be some of the Famous Americans made by the Louis Marx Toy Company in the 1950s. They were sold individually in five and dimes and some were included in the Fort Apache playset. Here's something funny; I was just reading about them this morning in a new book that I received for Christmas: Marx Fort Apache: King of Playsets published by Atomic Enterprises.

Brian Nichols, #08-523

« « « » » »

Can anyone tell me positively what color spruce tree was included in the HY-6 House and Yard Accessories kit? I received one in a group of recently acquired pieces and found both a typically colored tree as well as a definitely darker green tree. I do not believe we have any definitive info on the website for this piece.

John L Niehaus, #01-03

« « « » » »

Would it be possible for Ron to put plans of how he made the garages in the Villager next issue? I am not real good at building anything without plans.

Richard Woelkers, #04-325

« « « » » »

Will anything be done for the 15th anniversary. It is hard for me to think of any commercial or railroad buildings that would work in blue. Thanks. Scott Ritter #03-211 (*It was decided by the Executive Committee to wait until the 20th anniversary to offer another custom colored piece. Secretary*)

« « « » » »

NO where in the "Villager" does it say how much the dues are or where to send them. (*Dues renewal notices are mailed out with a card showing the dues for each membership level for one to three years if a person's membership is expiring the end of the calendar year. There is also a link in the Members section of the website for submitting dues electronically that lists the dues for each level for one to three years. Secretary*)

« « « » » »

Why don't you have an application for membership in every Newsletter? (*The newsletters are only sent to paid up members. They would not have a personal need for a membership application. Prospective member information packets, which include a membership application, are always available upon request from the Secretary and at no cost to you. Secretary*) (*Including a membership application in each newsletter would reduce the number of pages available for articles by two since it is double sided. Editor*)

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I threw away the mailing envelope, maybe there was a mailing address on it. (*The envelope in which to send dues renewal payments are pre-addressed and are part of the membership renewal packet. This packet is only sent to those whose dues expire at the end of the calendar year.*)

«« »»

Maybe a list of the officers with their addresses and phone numbers...? In each newsletter. (*The Officers are listed on a separate web page on our website. Their addresses and phone numbers are listed under their names in the roster on our website. A current roster can be requested from the Secretary if a person does not have Internet access or merely wishes to have a printed copy. A printed roster contains the Officers page. There is no cost to you for a mailed copy of the roster. Secretary*) (*Including this information on an ongoing basis would reduce the space available for articles. It is already difficult to fit all of the material into the allotted space. Adding additional pages would increase the cost of printed newsletters* Editor)

John Wickland, #04-257

«« »»

Received - Scanned - LOVED the B&B Birdbaths feature (of course!) -- GOOD JOB again -- More reading in the morn.

Geraldine Scott, #04-321

«« »»

Photo #1 is very hard to see what you have laid out as far as parts are concerned, maybe you should enlarge the photo somewhat like photo #2. (*I try my best to make the photos with the smallest pieces the largest, sometimes I don't get it right!* Editor)

Chris Rossbach, #01-81

«« »»

I am enclosing a \$... donation to The Parts Bin for supplies because I want to support this good idea.

Clint Baker, #10-664

«« »»

I have a suggestion 4 a PCA store item a big PCA sticker like 4" or 6" around to put on car or truck window or bumpers or tool boxes or train boxes I have a wooden train chest that I keep some of my train stuff in I have a Lionel trademark sticker.

Ken Honick, #10-628

«« »»

I think we should make a magnet of the PCA logo like the railroad magnets people sell at train shows. Why don't we make a billboard insert with the Plasticville logo on it?

Jeffrey Wayne Gardner, #09-578

«« »»

## PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

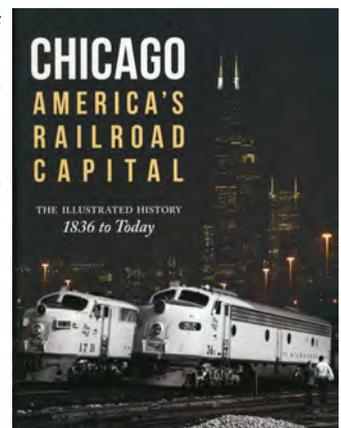
**C**hicago: America's Railroad Capital, The Illustrated History, 1863 to Today, various authors as noted below, hardback, 8½×11 format, \$40.00. Published by Voyageur Press. There are only four chapters to this book. It is somewhat unique in that each chapter is authored by a different person. The authors are Michael Blaszak, Brian Solomon, John Gruber, Chris Gus.

The first chapter, *Chicago Railway History*, is authored by Michael Blaszak. He lead us through the first railroad in 1848 through 2003. He includes information on the various early railroads as well as information on the 1893 Columbian Exposition and Pullman City. One of the things I appreciate about this chapter is the two-page foldout map showing the Chicago passenger lines into Chicago in 1928 on one side and the various freight yards in 2003.

Chapter two by Brian Solomon discusses the passenger trains and terminals that currently or once existed in Chicago. I knew of some of the stations that existed in Chicago at one time but not that there were a total of six different stations and that Central Station was not the same station as Grand Central Station. There are plenty of passenger train photos in this chapter but I would believe that there are enough station photos that more street level views could have been included in this chapter.

John Gruber is the author of chapter three, *Chicago's Visual and Historic Legacy*. This chapter contains numerous vintage postcards, stereoscope slides, as well as more recent photos. It discusses the various events, including the 1893 Columbian Exposition and the 1948 Chicago Railroad Fair. It also included subjects such as advertising, commercial photographers, and a few photos of railroad workers. One of the photos that caught my eye is that of one of the cars of the Lincoln's funeral train. What caught my eye was that the car in the photo has four trucks. It was the first time that I had seen a photo of the car and was surprised to see that it rode on four four-wheel trucks.

The last chapter, *Contemporary Chicagoland Operations* is by Chris Gus. It goes into great detail related to which railroad currently uses what tracks. It also goes much deeper into detail as to who was the former owner of the track still in use. I liked that his approach in the chapter was to list each railroad separately, provide a brief overview of its Chicago operations and follow



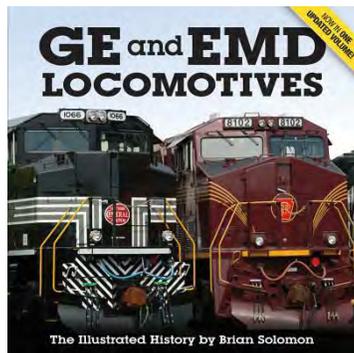
that up with information regarding its associated switch yards. It is almost mind boggling that there are over a dozen railroads of various classes still serving the Chicago area.

All chapters contain a generous amount of both black and white and color photos with captions. There are also many graphics/illustrations with captions as well. The bibliography includes books, periodicals, and other sources including fourteen Internet sources. There is also a five page index.

**GE and EMD Locomotives, The Illustrated History**, Brian Solomon, 352 pages, softbound, 10×10, \$30. Published by Voyageur Press.

A small diagonal banner in the upper right hand corner of the front cover reads, "NOW IN ONE UPDATED VOLUME!" With a bit of Google searching it seems that a book on GE locomotives may have been published in hardcover in 2003 and one on EMD locomotives published in hardcover in 2006. This is an educated guess based upon the fact that in the GE section of this volume the author references the current year as 2002. This book is, effectively, two books in one then. Just as the corner banner indicates!

How to review this publication was a bit of a quandary for me. Do I review it as one book since that is what it is physically or as two books inside one cover. I have chosen the former so bear with me.



The GE *book* contains ten chapters. The first chapter relates the earliest experiments with strictly electric locomotives by GE. Chapter two delves into the early diesels as well as the Alco/GE partnership and switchers. It is noted that one of the first gas/electric switchers was of GE manufacture. Chapter three covers the steam turbine-electric locomotives. For most of us the next chapter will be of greatest interest locomotives as it covers the Universal "U-boats" series. The next three covers the Dash 7, 8, and 9 locomotives. A chapter is dedicated to the AC traction motor locomotives and the final two chapters discuss the GENESIS and Evolution series locomotives. The total pages in this "book" are approximately 178.

Now for the EMD *book*. As EMD has not been in the locomotive business quite as long as GE this *book* contains only five chapters. The first chapter covers the Winton engine and goes into some detail as to how it was utilized in the first Burlington Zephyr. The next three chapters cover the 567, 645, and 710 diesel engines and their use in various locomotives. The last chapter covers the acquisition of EMD by Caterpillar Tractor Company. The total pages in this "book" are approximately 170.

There is a bibliography for each *book* as well as an index that is segmented into one for GE and another for EMD. Both list

As usual, I picked up a few tidbits of information unbeknownst to me before reading this book. I enjoyed reading it and recommend it to anyone interested in the history of Chicago as it relates to its railroads.

**Chicago: America's Railroad Capital** is available through Voyageur Press' website bookstore at [www.qbookshop.com](http://www.qbookshop.com). Merely search on Chicago There are also links on their website for ordering through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and three other sellers.

locomotive models as well as railroad names, station names, and other subjects.

Throughout the book are various little tidbits of trivia that are probably only known by avid railfans. Here is one of these tidbits as quoted in the book: "...the first low hood Electro-Motive road-switchers built with the low short hoods were designed for an entirely different reason. These were special order GP9s built for Phelps-Dodge in 1955. The pioneering application of the low short hood on a GP9 was to give the crew improved rear visibility over their train of copper-laden ore jennies." This was because Phelps-Dodge, as did other operators, ran their locomotives with the long hood forward.

The author even helps those who may not be able to visually identify a GE Dash 8 by describing the various sounds emanating from one of these units. The sounds, as he describes, as ticka ticka ticka. A distinctive space-age vhooop. Pfft pfft pfft spitting sound as water purge valves evacuate the air reservoir. My favorite has to be: budda gidda gidda ...pffsch when the motor driven air compressor kicks in. I will have to determine who in my neighborhood may be operating Dash 8s and see if I agree with his description of the sounds.

The book is illustrated with both color and vintage black & white photos. The photos enjoy lengthy captions that only add to the knowledge contained in this book. I feel that anyone wishing to acquire a greater knowledge of the locomotives built by these two manufacturers would be pleased with this book.

**GE and EMD Locomotives, The Illustrated History** can be purchased from Voyageur Press on their website at [www.qbookshop.com](http://www.qbookshop.com). Their website also contains hyperlinks to Barnes & Noble's, Amazon's, and other websites where I found the book listed at a bit less than the published price of \$30. It does not seem that it is available in eBook format.

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**R**ailroads in the African American Experience - A Photographic Journey, Theodore Kornweibel, Jr., 557 pages, hardbound, 8¼×10¼, \$42. Published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Black & white photos throughout. There are a few color representations of posters and African American art. As the title notes this book is about the role African Americans played in the building of early railroads as well as their more contemporary roles.

There are sixteen chapters in this book. Each chapter relates to a specific time frame or a specific role that African Americans played in the United States' railroad history. The first chapter discusses the role that slaves played, especially in the South, in the construction of the early railroads. Additional chapters discuss the lack of parity between African American and other railroad workers when it came to being locomotive engineers as well as other positions. It was extremely rare for an African American to be promoted to the engineer's position. Another chapter discusses dining car cooks and waiters.

Many of the railroads in the South were constructed with contract labor - prisoners "leased to a railroad" -after the Civil War. A trivia tidbit in this chapter references Johnny Cash's hit "Midnight Special" and that it was penned well before he made it a hit. The song was based on the premise that if the headlight of a train passing a prison in Houston, Texas around midnight shone on a specific cell that the occupant of that cell was due for release in the near future.

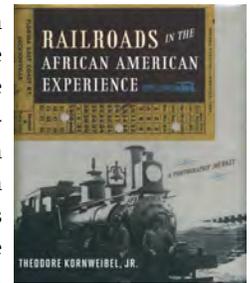
There is a chapter on the Southern States' Jim Crow laws and how those laws affected even those African Americans from the

**T**russ Bridge with Blinking Light, item number 44473, Bachmann/Plasticville. \$25 MSRP. New to the HO Plasticville line is a four piece truss bridge with a blinking red light in the top, center of the span. The kit comes with an information sheet. The information sheet shows the fully assembled bridge as well as an exploded view of every piece in the assembly. I wish that there would have been even some remedial assembly instructions.

There are only four pieces in the kit. The deck is designed for compatibility with Bachmann's *E-Z Track System*. The deck's details include a molded in remailer as well as molded in ties. The two sides and top have nicely detailed rivets on all members.

The red light housing looks similar to what one would find on some police cars. It nearly spans the width of the top center lateral support. The light blinks at a constant rate regardless of the voltage applied. The information sheet notes that the intensity of the light will remain constant when using DCC but will get brighter when using DC (increasing train speed /track voltage). My test with a DC transformer verified that information. I believe that with a bit of a modification the bridge could be easily set up to use a constant voltage source.

North when traveling to the Southern United States. Did you know that there were "Jim Crow" cars and that they were for African American passengers? African American travelers from the North were forced to move to these cars upon crossing into a State with Jim Crow laws even though they had paid the same price for a ticket as those in the car from which they were now banished.



The chapter on African American railroad imagery contains many lines of lyrics from songs that started as railroad construction crew cadence songs. The art and literature chapter contains both color representations of well known African Artists as well as sometimes less than flattering sheet music covers.

I have had this book for quite some time but hesitated to start reading it because of its length. I should have started on it sooner! Once I started reading I put it down only when absolutely necessary. This book reads like a script for a TV documentary. In my opinion it should be presented to Ken Burns for him to perform his magic. This is one time when I highly recommend you obtain a copy for yourself. I do not feel you will be disappointed.

**Railroads in the African American Experience** is available from the Johns Hopkins University Press at [jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu](http://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu). It is available on Amazon with new volumes starting at \$26.12 plus shipping. It is listed on Barnes & Noble's website at \$33.35.

Assembly was a bit of a tussle at first. It took me bit of time to determine that I had to lay the sides on their sides in their relative position to the deck and then roll then into place. They stay in place quite well once all four locking points on each side are in place. I locked the outermost in place first then snapped the innermost points into place. Once the sides are in place the top is then placed in position and their locking positions pressed down into the sides.

Care must be taken to ensure electrical connectivity, especially between the desk and sides, as the power for the light is through the track and not a separate connection. I had to reassemble the bridge twice before I had a complete electrical circuit.

This bridge would add a realistic touch to a layout especially if it is used to cross a "navigable" waterway at a reasonable price.



# 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. J-7, Lancaster, CA 93536. villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

### Ending February 2017

Wanted marbled outer ends for covered bridge. Need two letter B and one letter C. Will trade for a complete building or any parts you may need. Example I have parts for Littletown gas station or Plasticville corner store and other hard rare parts. I need a red diner roof. #09-580 David Starre, 5105 Herman Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102.

PV Rural two story house #45971 tan sides, brown roof, green trim for rural house white sides, gray roof, black trim or gray sides, white roof, dark gray trim white sides and roof must be white not light gray. wrkidd2000@yahoo.com. #09-584 Wesley Kidd, 105 Linda Ct., Jeannette, PA 15644.

## 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

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 #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

### Ending November 2016

Wanted. One Littletown #303 street light. rnlkotowski@yahoo.com. #13-818 Rich Kotowski, 2836 Hunter St. Angles Camp, CA 95222.

### Ending February 2017

Wanted: 4 light blue windows for American Flyer Pikemaster house colonial house. Wanted: 1 Dark Blue SMALL roof section for American Flyer Colonial House. Available: 1 light blue SMALL roof section for American Flyer colonial house. #10-643 Eugene Sankowski, 6008 Timmons Ct, Charlotte NC 28227.

Olive drab chimney for log cabin and outhouse or two doors and roof for senic classic. King mobil home blue base and cream back with small window. 45971 rural two story house gray chimney. Corner stor gray 'L' shaped wall part 'C' and white roof. wrkidd2000@yahoo.com. #09-584 Wesley Kidd, 105 Linda Ct., Jeannette, PA 15644.

# FOR SALE

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 February 2017

For Sale: Original vintage Plasticville Turnpike Interchange #1900, all parts like-new with solid box and 4 original pilons - \$37.00 plus postage. Many parts for sale - Ask, send list. Parts are all ORIGINAL. Many hard to find. Marbled Hobo Shacks, like-new with solid box #1627 \$100.00 plus exact postage. #09-580 David Starre, 5105 Herman ave, Cleveland, OH 44102.

ONLY A FEW REMAINING! Near mint Plasticville catalogs from 1953 through 1964. Send me your wants or ask for my price list. Also have NOS School House lights, large pin variety, \$10, postpaid and NOS School House weathervanes, \$5, postpaid. Lights and weathervane plus four assorted Plasticville figures, \$12, postpaid. #00-3 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021.

## THE FREE PCA CLASSIFIED ADS BRING RESULTS!

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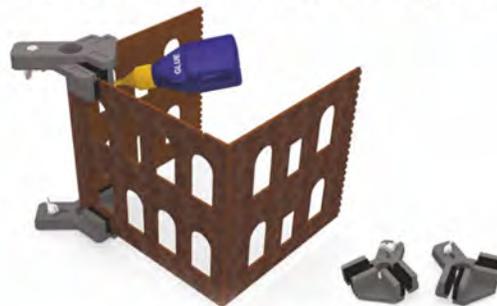
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