



# THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 15

November 2016

Number 4

## SOLD OUT - "PLASTICVILLE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY" PICKUP TRUCKS A BIG HIT

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The limited edition 1955 Chevrolet Stepside "Plasticville Construction Company" pickup trucks as shown in the accompanying photo were sold out by the end of August. We seem to have underestimated the popularity of a custom printed truck when we ordered only 100 pieces. The order quantity was determined based on the purchase history of the 5th and 10th Anniversary buildings.

We checked with the company from which the trucks were purchased and found that a sufficient number of trucks were not available even to fulfill the orders that were received after the trucks were sold out. We are sorry that all of you who wished to purchase a truck did not have that opportunity.



## BACK IN TIME

### DENNIS DOWNEY #16-980

Dennis wrote in by email and provided three photographs of his layout in the late 1950's. The photos show the Plasticville, American Brick, and Dinky toy town he had in the late 1950's to early 1960's. He wishes that he still had them all today. I still have the Dinky toys.



### The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

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

**President:** Chris Matthy

**Vice President:** Frank Ross

**Secretary/Treasurer:** John L Niehaus

**Webmaster:** John L. Niehaus

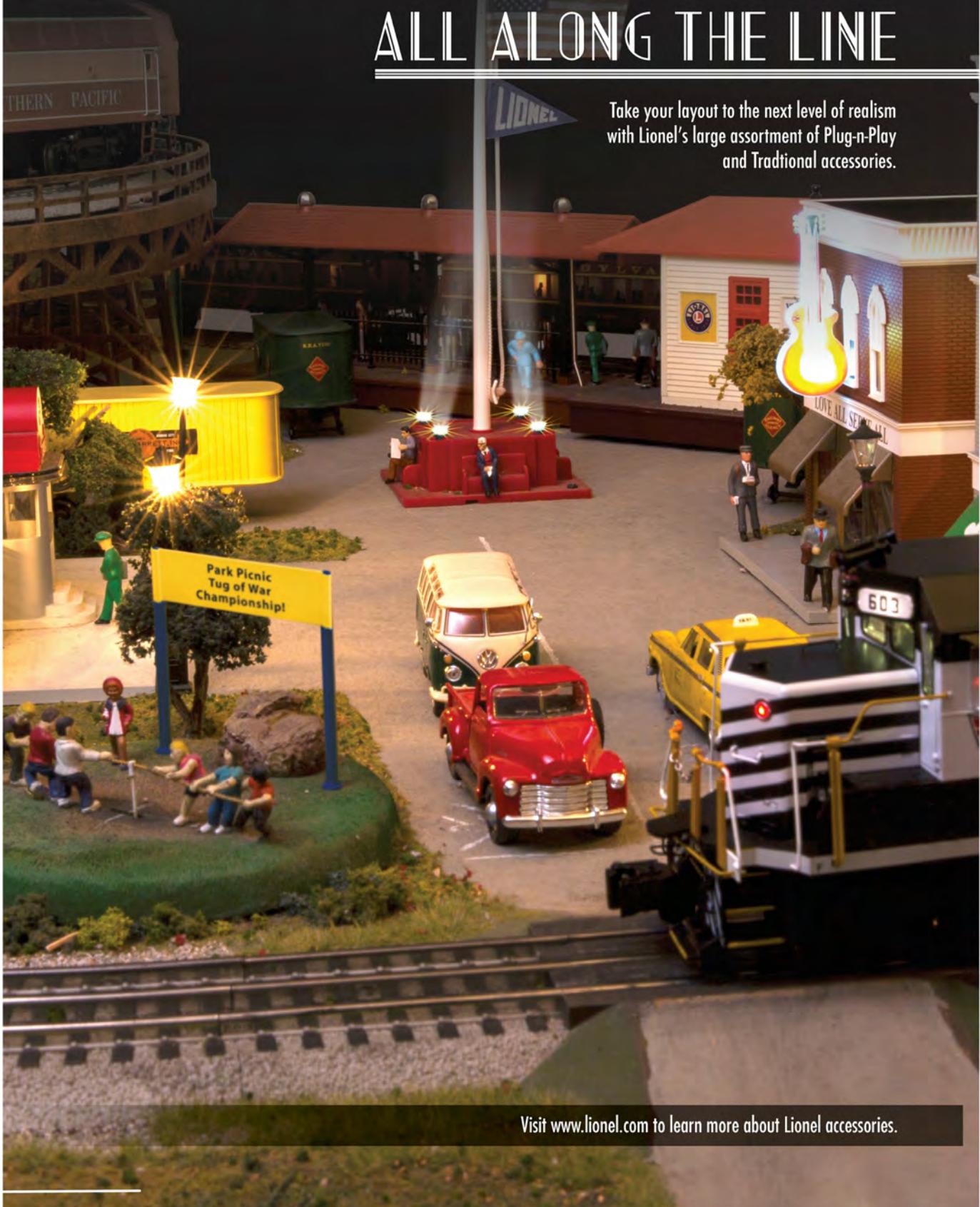
**Newsletter Editor:** Matthew Harvazinski

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



I would begin by thanking those of you who responded to my challenge in the last newsletter. First of all it proved the links on the new web site work! And, secondly, I was reminded of the Colonial Mansion molds that were loaned to Galoob to make a play house -- I even have one of these, though not in the box. And no, referring to the HO Penn Line station and the American Flyer station, Dom and I did not communicate ahead of time and coordinate our articles -- chalk it up to great minds thinking alike!

On another note - I have been a subscriber to *Classic Toy Trains* since issue one. Except for a few special issues, I have not saved them. I usually tear out anything I think I might want to save, to be sorted and filed "some day." So when a friend offered me a banker's box of back issues, I gladly accepted. My first impression was how heavy an older issue was; a quick comparison showed that the older issues had around 120-140 pages, and some close to 200 pages, whereas current issues have about 60 pages. The second impression was the amount of advertising that existed in those old issues; you almost have to search for the articles. The third impression was how many special runs of trains, mostly freight cars, but also accessories, vehicles and buildings were being done by hobby shops, clubs and collectors associations, sometimes up to a dozen items per issue. I even found the ad for the Plasticville boxcar done by a California Hobby Shop which now goes for twice the price on eBay. I think you can draw some conclusions about the toy train industry from all that, though the Internet and eBay also have changed the landscape.

All of that made me feel good about our PCA publication *The Villager*. The number of pages continues to grow nicely. Our editor recently "complained" that he had to shorten his own notes because he had so much material from you print. This is a good sign that our membership has lots of interesting knowledge to share, which in turn makes our publication and our association more attractive. Keep it coming. On the down side, our secretary has noted that our advertising (and its revenue) is down. That will happen if advertisers don't think they are drawing sales from our publication. I have purchased several items from advertisers (the track pliers being the latest, and they really work well). Let's make sure we support those advertisers, even as we seek other creative avenues.

As for special run items, I almost missed out on my pick-up trucks because so many of you responded so quickly (thanks John). I think the Executive Committee will definitely think about some future offers -- we have plenty of businesses in Plasticville that could use support vehicles.

The fall and winter approach, and with them come train shows and club shows. If you see something interesting, get a few pictures and take a few notes, whether it's something for sale or something on a layout. It doesn't have to be a major article -- one picture and a brief paragraph sent to Matt can help us all enjoy this hobby a little more, and maybe learn something along the way. See you on the other side of the Holidays!

Chris Matthy  
PCA President

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Now that summer has officially ended, it's time to concentrate on rebuilding my new layout. After a few months of spending minimal time on laying track, I can announce that I have the first of two levels completed, which consist of four independent loops with transition switch tracks to get from one loop to another, and be able to change directions as well. I still have to do all the wiring, and want to lay cork roadbed under the track, but it's getting there a little at a time.

I found out a few months ago that the last of the premiere train stores in the Denver, CO (at least in my eyes) area is closing. Caboose Hobbies was one of my "go to" places whenever there was something I needed in the process of building or operating my previous layout. It was a massive store which stocked locomotives and train cars of all scales, and had a wonderful section devoted to scenery supplies which included a nice assortment of Plasticville pre-built buildings and original type kits. I'm afraid that this is turning into a trend with train stores around the country after reading an editorial in one of the major O Gauge magazines a short time ago.

I can remember taking a trip to that store during the Christmas holidays in the late eighties a few days after we had a significant

snow storm. It was a driving challenge just getting there, but after being snowbound at home for a few days, I was ready to get out. It was definitely worth the trip.

Shortly after walking in the door, my eyes spotted a booklet on display in the O Gauge section, and all I could see in big white letters was the word PLASTICVILLE sticking out from a red background. It was the first illustrated price guide that I had ever seen for O/S Gauge Plasticville that documented all of the manufacturer produced color combinations for all of the kits that were ever made. Its cover has a large color photograph of a section of Bill Nole's layout which shows many Plasticville buildings, trees and other accessories which were produced from the fifties through (I think) the eighties. I believe that most members are aware of Bill Nole as probably the self proclaimed Mayor of Plasticville. That booklet ignited an idea that I had for a long time about wanting to collect all of the different color combinations of the various buildings, and displaying them on my layout. I really didn't have any idea how big of an undertaking that would be, or how large of a layout I would need until I started reading this booklet.

I must admit that finding that booklet is what inspired me to get deeper into the world of Plasticville, and it continues to be a rewarding and wonderful journey. I'm sure that most of our

members are familiar with this booklet, as well as revised versions since the first one was published. If you haven't seen any of these booklets, I certainly recommend getting one. They turn up sometimes at train shows, and you can order the latest one from Bill Nole by calling him between 6PM and 9PM Eastern time at 570 343 2236.

I know by now that the offer from this organization to offer a Plasticville related pick-up truck was well received. We took a chance by ordering 100 units, and it was sold out within a few weeks. It was our intention to produce this vehicle to augment

any scene using the House Under Construction building kit. I hope that you enjoy it.

I'm looking forward to the next York show in October, and if I come across anything of interest related to Plasticville, I'll pass it forward.

As Lou Palumbo always says, "Keep Searchin".

Frank Ross  
PCA Vice President

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



The limited edition of 100 pickups trucks was a sell-out. They were so popular that I even purchased only one so that another member could have one. The Executive Committee based the number ordered based on the percentage of members who purchased the 5th and 10th anniversary buildings. Although it

will take longer from announcement to shipping I feel that any future limited edition pieces, and that includes the 20th anniversary Plasticville piece, will be by subscription (pre-order). Using a pre-order process will ensure that those who wish to purchase whatever is being offered in the future will not be left out due to an arbitrarily set limited edition quantity. We obviously underestimated the demand for the trucks and I apologize as I am the oldest member of the Executive Committee. Which leads me into the next subject.

I am sure that you have seen in the Executive Committee meeting minutes as well as in this column that I have decided not to run for re-election to the office of Secretary/Treasurer. There are other things that I would like to do the make the PCA's website more informative. I have an extensive collection of "other than Plasticville" pieces, as well as rarer Plasticville pieces, that I would like to have the opportunity to photograph for addition to our website. I also have ideas for articles that I would like to submit to our editor for publication in *The Villager*.

Between my two day a week part time work, family commitments, conducting PCA Secretary/Treasurer business, and *The*

*Parts Bin* requests I just do not have the time to devote to taking the photos or writing the articles. That is why I have decided not to run again. Contact me by letter, email, or phone if you would like to know more about the duties of the Secretary/Treasurer office. In my opinion, this position is the HEART of the Plasticville Collectors Association.

I want to thank those members who send me address changes by email. But, I cringe when I am one of recipients listed in the **To:** field along with many other email addresses. I cringe as my last assignments when working for John Deere were in user identity protection. It is my suggestion that if you need to send an email to a group of people and are uncertain as to whether all know each other that you enter the email addresses in the **Bcc:** field rather than the **To:** field. Using the Bcc: field "hides" all of the email addresses to which the message was sent yet sends the message to all those listed.

While attempting to verify a non-deliverable email I was informed by his son that John A Krueger, #07-496, of Puyallup, Washington passed away this last April.

I also received an email from the daughter of former member Edwin Boyer, #07-460, of Palos Hills, Illinois asking for assistance with the disposition of his collection. He passed away on March 22 of this year.

John L Niehaus  
Secretary/Treasurer

## EDITOR'S COLUMN



I am writing this the weekend before York and am excited to be attending for the first time in October, especially since I missed April this year. I have been very busy with work and have not had much time to browse eBay or think about Plasticville over the last few months. I'm hoping that York will have some unique finds.

You probably noticed that the page count on the newsletter is getting smaller. The November issue typically approached 40 pages. This year we are at just 32 pages. I fear we may dip in to the 28 page range next year. I have started to use up the material I have in reserve and am not receiving much in the way of new content. I do greatly appreciate those that have sent material in.

The lack of submissions made this issue and the previous one were very hard to put together. It takes me quite a bit of work to put this together and when I am struggling to fill the pages it is that much more difficult. That has quickly started to take the fun out of doing this.

I hope that we can reverse course by having members send in content. My fear is that if the newsletter keeps getting smaller it will be a downward spiral that will kill it. Let us all work together to prevent that from happening! Content can be submitted to the email address below,

Matt Harvazinski  
*The Villager* Editor  
villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

# THE YORK REPORT

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI, #11-682

This was the first time that I was able to attend the York meet in October. Previously I had only attended in April, this past April I was unable to make it because of some scheduling issues so I decide to attend in October. There was a large amount of Plasticville to be had if you were looking for more common items. Prices overall seemed lower than previous meets. I saw several tables with complete boxed kits for between five and ten dollars. One of the first tables I stopped at in the Red Hall has a stack of boxes marked \$ 5 each. I was interested in the 1852 ranch house (for a possible dark blue version) and the 1913 motel which contains cars in harder to find colors (orange, aqua, turquoise, dark green, and black). I checked the ranch house first since it was at the top of the stack, it was not dark blue much to my disappointment. While I was examining the house a very rude attendee knocked into me, shoved his hand in front of me and grabbed the motel box for himself. My father made a comment that said we were looking at that, but this individual bought it immediately and took off. I was really disappointed that this individual was so rude, I hope they were not a PCA member. This happened to me once at another meet which had a silent auction, there the individual actually was standing guard over the bid sheet and refused to let me near the paper to mark down a bid.

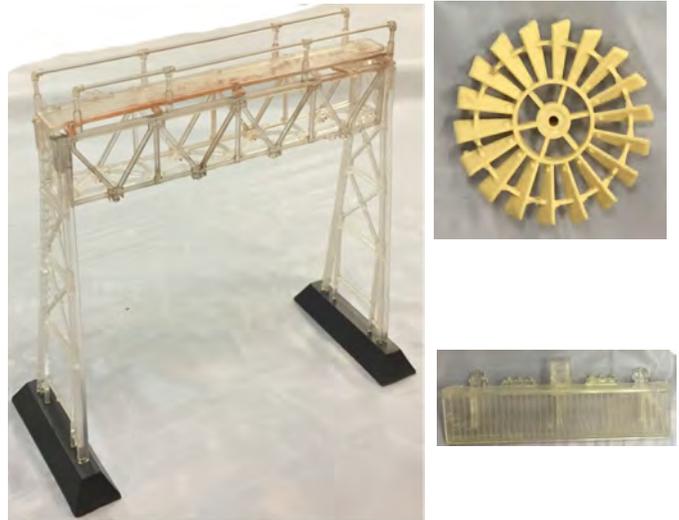
As I walked through the tables I did not see too many rare pieces, except those at the Horner's booth which is always filled with a lot of interesting items. Here were some of the better priced items, all boxed and complete. 1608 School, \$ 10, 1800 Large Gas Station, \$15, 49002 Autumn Shade Tree, \$9. There were also some pieces which seemed priced too high, hobo shacks, \$ 150, three men in a tub, \$ 275.

There were about 29 people at the 11 AM meeting, 4 of which were not members. There were 8 people at the 5:30 PM meeting, 4 of which were not members. I only attended the 11 AM meeting as I was already on the road by the time of the evening meeting. At the 11 AM meeting there were several interesting items presented for the show-and-tell. We saw a complete three men in a tub with the rhyme sheet, a Littletown corner store with the original un-punched window inserts and a Littletown general store with the window inserts. I shared a twinkle town house that was unused in the original box that I found under a table Thursday evening in the orange hall. I also shared an unusual find which was a Davy Crocket's Log Cabin. What made this interesting was it had a chrome ruffle on both the front and back walls. Possibly someone combined two kits along the way, or it

came from the factory that way. It is unknown, like the other Chrome rifles I have seen it had no door sticker and came in an LC-2 box without the "Disney" sticker on it.

Anatoly Vasiliev shared several pieces in odd colors, these included an almost complete HO frosty bar that was clear, a near complete HO signal tower that was clear. He also had O/S windmill parts in black and tan. A lengthy discussion about the possible source of these off color pieces took place. John Niehaus shared two rare display pieces, both with original boxes! The #6000 light up display with an unused light bulb and a #6100 display which was complete except for the Plasticville buildings.

It has been tradition to assign gold bars to get a sense of the perceived value of Plasticville. Based on my ad hoc analysis I would simply say it depends! Some people had extremely low prices on pieces while others were asking top dollar.



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## OCTOBER 2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

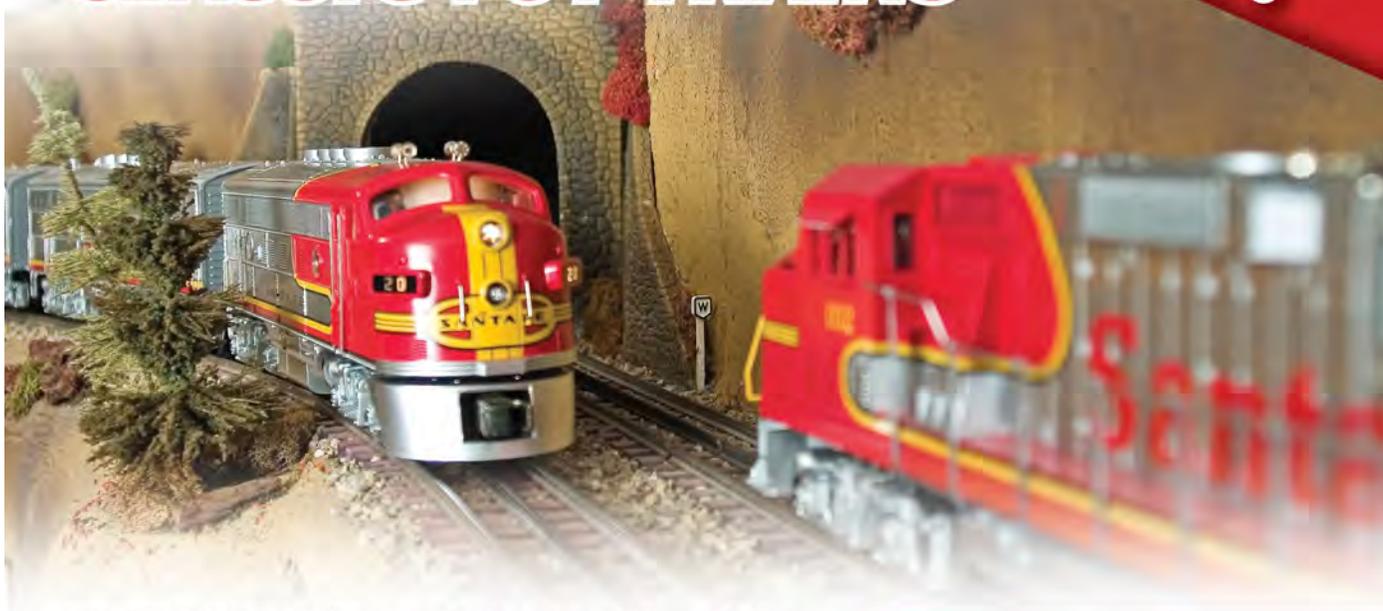
The October, 2016 Executive Committee meeting was called to order on October 6, 2016 at 7:23PM, Eastern time, by Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus. Those in attendance were Vice President Frank Ross and Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus. Those absent were President Chris Matthy, Immediate Past President Doug Gilliatt, and founder, Joe Kutza. As

there was not a quorum the meeting was immediately adjourned. All Association business scheduled to be discussed will be deferred until the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM, Eastern Time  
Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus, Secretary/Treasurer

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# LAYOUT AND HOLIDAY PHOTOS



Paul Bruemmer # 03-241



Jim Steed # 01-55



Ken Honick # 10-628

Chuck Neuman # 08-528



Ray Scanland # 02-174

## 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 January 1, 2016.

- Clay A Joiner, Moberly, MO
- Ken Harker, Elverson, PA
- Theodore M Hauser, St Joseph, MO
- Robert E Smith, Kansas City, MO
- Paula M Simon, Hillsboro, OR
- Ernest R Lenning, Harrison, MI
- Robert D Debrocco, Clayton, DE
- Michael O Graham, Cleveland, OH
- Michael M Davis, Chicago, IL

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- Michael Stern, Marlton, NJ (*incorrectly listed as Michael Stern in the August newsletter*)
- Julie A Davis, Hanover, MN
- Jerry R Cirri, Baltimore, MD
- Jeffrey H Fox, Schenectady, NY
- Jeff Levan, Lancaster, PA
- Donald M Warnke, Westlake, OH
- Dennis J Downey, Forsyth, IL
- Devlin Thompson, Athens, GA
- Leslie W Murray, Galloway, NJ



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# K-LINE: BOXES, BAGS, AND BLISTERPACKS

## Box Type 8

DONALD W. HUOVINEN #11-714

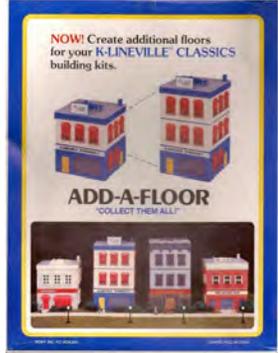


In the 1988 catalog K-Line expanded their K-LINEVILLE® CLASSICS two story buildings with their ADD-A-FLOOR. Identical In concept to Plasticville's Add-A-Floor for the Apartment House, K-Line touted that you could "turn your two story buildings into three stories (or more) with this simple addition". ADD-A-FLOOR kits were available for all four K-LINEVILLE® CLASSICS.

The boxes for the ADD-A-FLOOR had many of the design elements of the K-LINEVILLE® CLASSICS. I have designated this new box as Box 8.

Highlights/details of the box are as follows:

- The front of the box has a small blue background, more of a border actually.
- The boxed item is prominently pictured and is surrounded by a yellow border stripe. A myriad of significant information is located on the picture:
- The now familiar blue and yellow K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo is in the upper left corner.
- "ADD-A-FLOOR" and the item number is in the upper right corner.
- The item description is just above the item picture.
- The lower left corner warns that "Contains pieces for only one floor" and the now infamous "Model may be painted to match photograph".
- The back is more stunning than the front. It actually serves to sell the ADD-A-FLOOR concept.
- The back has a small blue background, more of a border actually.
- The upper portion of the back has a photo of the item before and after the addition of the ADD-A-FLOOR.



- The lower portion of the back has a photo of all four of the K-LINEVILLE® CLASSICS buildings, two of which have an additional floor added.



- The top and bottom of the box are similar but not identical. The top has the blue and yellow border with the item description centered. "ADD-A-FLOOR" and the item number is in the upper right corner. "K-LINEVILLE CLASSICS" is in the left corner
- The bottom of the box is identical except that "Made in Taiwan" is added to the lower right corner.
- The right and left sides are identical and are very similar to the top of the box. However the blue and yellow K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo has been added to the far left side.
- All boxes are 8 1/2" x 11" x 1 1/2".

As with Boxes 6 and 7, there are two items of special interest about this box. The first is that in the lower left corner of the front of the box it is stated "Model may be painted to match photograph". The components included in the ADD-A-FLOOR actually are the same color as the model shown on the box, however a number of detail items on the base model could be different. The second 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 more meaningful.

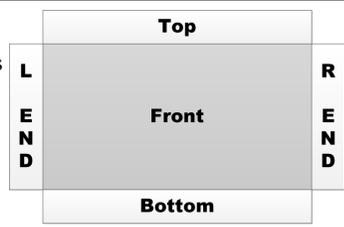
As always I welcome your additions, corrections or comments. This is a work in progress and if you are interested in K-Line buildings and wish to assist please e-mail me at dhuov@aol.com.

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### 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



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# PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 209

## Railroad Centers: 5600 Series

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154



If track and operating accessories are the pulse of a model railroad, then a railroad center is its heart. When the mainlines were built across the West, and before the track reached each proposed town, the companies issued incentives for a station, with its all important water tower, to be ready. And like so, with model railroads, the early placement of a railroad station is of paramount importance. This is because a toy train is often run to its completeness by stopping it at that station, and thus from there, it begins its next journey into a child's own imagination. For most other toys a child just pulls the plug and walks away. Plasticville's railroad centers provided several play roles; the stationmaster, the yardmaster, the signalman, and engine servicing employees, were all represented. Should anyone say, "What good is a Plasticville Union Station? It just sits there", has forgotten how to play.



The centerpiece of the Plasticville railroad center was the majestic Union Station. Other subsequent railroad structures and accessories were also added. These railroad centers provided a large stand alone group of interconnected structures, or they could be stretched out along the line to enhance the model railroad's route. Either way these boxed sets expanded a municipal character type fit by providing more modern buildings than other kit competitors had done. This augmented Plasticville's marketing plan of growing into a large city. The first railroad center, Railroad Accessories (RR-5), was covered in chapter 203. Its subsequent railroad center was of the number era. That set had practically the same contents as the RR-5, except that the newly available Union Station replaced the suburban station.

Plasticville Railroad Accessories 5200, cataloged in 1956, was the boxed set which shared a transitional role with the RR-5. Later railroad centers were to become more comprehensive. The core structures of the 5602 were: the Union Station, 1956, a switch tower & signal



bridge, 1954, and a trestle bridge, 1955. Its accessories were: a flagpole, 1954, plus four solid brown phone poles with diagonal braces, two lamp posts, two billboards (one of green and one of white, year of color ads undetermined), and a crossing gate, all 1950.

The set was packaged in a typical number era mid size box. The box color was brilliant orange over white separated diagonally. The letter boxed rendering of contents was set on and expanded pea green lawn under a cloudless sky. Shadows indicated an inconsistent light source. The picture accurately represented the contents. The bridges were pictured as grey but they never came that way. The set's dividers were unique: most of the box area was needed to place the trestle bridge. There was one extremely large tray the exact size of a trestle bridge, then the remaining space was filled by twin trays bisecting the width of the box. Once opened the contents were not easily placed back in the box. For situations like this the dividers, or even entire boxes, are sometimes discarded by the original owner.

Plasticville Railroad Accessories 5605 (type I), cataloged in 1957, was another transitional set. The set was packaged in a RR-5's set box bottom and dividers, with a 5602's box top. A sticker was placed over the original set's designation number, thus changing it to a 5605. The RR-5's box depth was necessary because that set box was deep enough to hold a newly available water tank, but the 5602's top did not accurately fit over the side panels. The type I box was probably an early production make do. Apparently the intended box art and fabrication was not ready in time. Other problems with set box art from 1957 was previously noted in chapter 205 The Highway.



Plasticville Railroad Accessories 5605 (type II), cataloged in 1957, was packaged in a typical large letter era box, a box which was to become the standard for all subsequent railroad centers. The box color was light mustard over white, separated diagonally. This large box (in a different color) was first used to package the letter era airports. The dividers of the 5605, and all subsequent railroad centers, were the same as those tray sizes within the International Airport 5600. But why was the box depth for airports then made also as an exact fit for a future water tank? The water tank was not even to be fashioned until 1957. Perhaps the water tank was more likely scaled to fit that box. Incidentally a RR-5 box was already deeper than the airport boxes. If instructions were to have been given to employees to scale units to fit into finite set box dimensions, then a mind set of holding the boxed set product line in more regard than would otherwise be indicated would have been in accordance. Or maybe they were

just frugal with boxes. The letter boxed rendering of contents for the type II box, unlike the type I (make do) box accurately depicted the contents. The diorama was set on a pea green lawn under a cloudless medium blue sky. Distant tree groves on the horizon accented the depth of it's field. This box is comparatively very common.

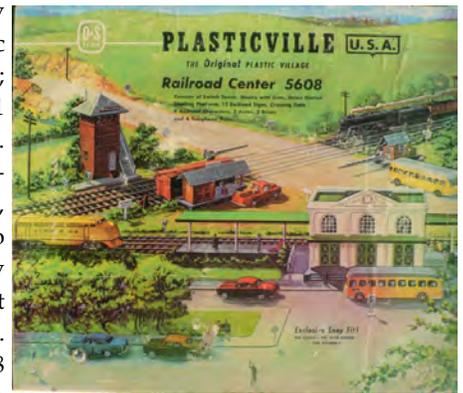
Both 5605 set types contained the following core structures: a switch tower with signal bridge, both 1954, a newly available water tank, 1957, and the magnificent Union Station, 1956. A couple of more experienced collectors than the author account that the 5605 includes a very rare light gray Union Station platform variation. Although I have had nine 5605s pass through my collection and I hold an additional two, a light gray variation has not been seen by me. It is understandable that the variation was removed and earlier substituted on some sets even before my own eleven acquisitions. Similarly, the black automobile was, for a fact, harvested out of a vast amount of the factory sealed #1986 Scenic Classics. So the reader could assume, along with me, that light gray platforms were not originally packed into all 5605s, just into some of them. Any hard evidence about this variation should be directed to the PCA. Both 5605s included the following accessories: four solid brown phone poles with diagonal braces & a crossing gate with opaque white arm (not milk white), both 1950, plus 12 street signs, 1952, and 12 newly available white railroad signs, 1957.

Plasticville Railroad Center 5608 (type I), cataloged in 1959, was a very impressive box design; It's features were similar in style to the Plasticville Interceptor Squadron 5607, covered in chapter 201. The entire box top surface was a borderless dynamic print of a rail junction. A Union Station with bus connection dominated the foreground. A switch tower guarded an interchange which was suggested by two trains proceeding through a virtual 30 degree crossing. An active truck-to-box car delivery was in progress at the loading platform, and a shanty guarded traffic for one of the approaching trains. The whole scene was set skirting the margin between an urban locale and a rural expanse under a distant sky. The graphics and slogans were all similar to those of the Interceptor Squadron. The picture accurately depicts all the items contained in the set box. The artist added a pickup truck. No pickup truck was actually included.

The 5608 consisted of the following core structures: a Union Station, 1956, a loading platform with hand trucks, 1957, a watchman's shanty with crossing gate, 1958, and a switch tower, 1952. The three smaller structures were molded in the early light gray sides with matching brown roofs. The later dark gray sides were not used in the 5608. This set had an abundance of accessories: four solid brown phone poles with diagonal braces, 1950, three sedan and coupe autos (red, green, and one of either blue or sometimes yellow) & two orange only busses, 1954, with 12 white railroad signs, and 8 railroad (fat) characters, 1957. The characters were packaged in a crisp heat sealed bag and the signs were placed still connected to their two white sprues. The characters did not include a paint brush or palate wheel. The 5608 makes a very attractive build up and is the most sought after set of this group. It is also a comparatively common boxed set.

Plasticville Railroad Center 5608 (type II), offered in 1962, was exactly like the 1959 set in every aspect except that it was pack-

aged in the newly available generic landscape style box; refer to chapter 101 An Introduction. This was an advancement in box design, unlike the make do box for the early 5605, which was not ready for prime time. A sticker 5608-498 was applied to each end panel, also a heat stamped #3118 appears beside that sticker. The 5608 (type II) has dividers; some generic landscape boxes do not.



Approaching the final chapters of O & S scale boxed sets, the benefit of play value as the most interesting characteristic of Bachmann's inventiveness is what I most want

my readers to comprehend. A link between children's imagination and the theme of each boxed set might have been everything for which Bachmann had purposed. That goal was something which might not have been immediately achieved by a child receiving one and then another building alone. This appeal increased sales volume and profits. Bachmann's awareness of set box marketing strategy is evident; for which, slogans and group box art are not always predominant on their individual boxes.

The following kits are recommended to supplement railroad centers. a 5200 station set, the coaling tower, a diner, a frosty bar, and a motel. While I was traveling on the Empire Builder, two segments of the passenger train's consist combined in Spokane's vast railroad center. I got down with the crew. An attractive lady passenger watched an employee taking what looked to be a gas nozzle over to our car. "What is he doing?" she asked. I said, "Oh, he's just watering the livestock." The employee looked and almost laughed.

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# FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

## Foundations (Not Non-Profit)

RON SCHLICHT #02-109



There are a lot of layouts that are relatively flat, including mine. Plasticville buildings are all pretty similar in height. There is an old saying “lets raise the roof”, well how about raising the floor. One of the buildings that Bachman kept from the Littletown line was the colonial mansion. By in large this structure is pretty small compared to other residential homes that PV issued. Just the word mansion sounds big. For years I had one in Mr. Ronald’s Neighborhood even though it seemed a bit out of place. There are many ways to make structures bigger. You can either increase the width or length, but I didn’t have the room. So I made it taller by putting in a foundation. It may just be my imagination or an illusion but all of a sudden it looked a lot bigger aside other PV homes. As a side note, when you light up a lot of PV structures they have a tendency to glow. If you have seen pictures of mansions or have one in your subdivision (not where I live), many are outside lit during evening hours. The glow from the inside light gives the mansion that impression. This also works on the cathedral or any other white plastic buildings.



Many of us received a PV CC-8 church to go with their train set. The first church that Bachman produced was that one. Again adding a foundation makes it look more like some of the real churches that you see every day. The CC-9 church, C-18 Cathedral, 1803 Colonial church and HO 2604 church and 2800 cathedral all had windows above the door. Personally I think that was a great touch. I also added a window on the back of the church. Since you can get broken CC-8’s for a dime a



dozen, I decided to follow suit and add windows. Excuse the term dime a dozen. Some sellers think PV stands for Platinum Value. One other thing an inquiring mind wants to know. Why so many churches? Where they trying to make one for every denomination? I have the Colonial church on one of my shelves; it came with three steeple tops. I display it with the Star of David; which was on the Littletown version. This is something that would probably not be produced in today’s environment.

Everyone likes the PV Diner, especially if it is in chrome. I decided to raise a little smell (food of course). Some people are asking just how many pictures of diners are we going to see? As I understand, originally some diners were made from older railroad cars. This necessitated building a foundation for them. Since mine is located in a downtown area I wanted it to be a bit more noticeable. Again I raised it. I added a small annex to have a place for the lighting wires to come up and in. Excuse the lighting rigging; I will be redoing it with LED’s in the near future. I was fortunate enough to have an



extra PV frosty bar front. This is the basis for the front and back work area. There are seven booths one of which is filled with policemen. All of the blinds were shortened in order to be able to see the booths with the roof in place. If you are asking why a policeman on the roof, it may be answered in a future article.

PV mobile homes are hard to find. However I did find some broken ones with missing parts. In most mobile home parks the wheels and actual frames are not visible and have some form of sheathing around them. So who really needs the wheels. I have a trailer court on my layout., but could use a small office in my coal yard. That's what broken parts are for.

I originally bought another corner store only because it had perfect original window inserts in it. I had no plans for it on my layout, since I already had one. At a swap meet a dealer, that I



know, gave me five figures some of which were broken or in bad shape. One look at them spelled, the word "TAVERN". After making some modifications and adding a skylight from a 1908 spit level house, all it needed was a floor. Up we go again, after all there needs to be some means of getting started on the way home. What better way than tumbling down a stairway. Another somewhat modified scrap PV Frosty Bar front counter served as the bar with proper dispensers. No ice cream is served at this establishment. The rest of the interior is just an abundance of "stuff". Actually this was the first building on my layout that I made an interior for.

The Police Station is a bit of a Plain Jane using the same sides and back as the Fire house. With the stairs in front, that are already there, the floor level would actually be a bit higher. Adding the appearance of a foundation seemed to give it a bit more character and separated its appearance from the Fire House. It makes it look a tad shorter but a bit wider. This reaffirmed the old adage that clothing with horizontal stripes will make you look fatter. However if your wife asks that question, JUST SAY NO.



# K-LINE KRONICLES

## Colors Part II, The Barn

ED BERG #02-123



**K**-Line broke the Marx mold early on by introducing different colors to their line of buildings. It's true that a couple of early K-Line offerings were released in the same staid but predictable Marx hues but soon new colors were popping up and before long there was a rainbow of colors to choose from. This is what makes collecting K-Line fascinating, and a challenge trying to find each color combination available!

This issue features the #K-4132 Barn & Chicken Coop set. The colors here are different than any Marx had offered, for example Marx never offered a white barn with brown roof. The two chicken coops pictured are early K-Line versions but later versions would feature



different colors and graphics. Again, Marx never produced the coop in these colors. The set itself is actually a hybrid because Marx never sold these two structures together; they were always sold as separate items. Marx was known for its anomalies, either in size or scale or what have you, yet these two buildings were a puzzling pair even for Marx. First, we realize that most Marxville buildings were more appropriate for an S-gauge layout than O-gauge, but the barn is really under scale and odd sized – too big for HO scale and too small even for S-gauge.



The chicken coop on the other hand is fully 54mm and the original Marx chicken coop included Series 2 54mm Farm Animals (thankfully not included in the K-Line version). K-Line did however include the Marx farmer and farmer's wife (in a dark beige almost tan color hard plastic), and the horse, cows, goats, and pigs (in light beige hard plastic) that were originally included with the Marx barn. Why Marx chose to offer a 54mm chicken coop in plastic is strange because a beautiful tin-litho chicken coop was included in their large tin-litho farm sets as early as 1955.

None of the original Marx farm implements (tractor, rake, wagon, etc) were included as apparently K-Line never acquired the tooling for these. That's probably best as the Marx tractor which



came in the original Marx sets was so small it had the appearance of a child's pedal tractor of the 1950s when standing next to the farmer!

### K-Line logo location:

- Barn: The word 'K-LINE' appears under one of the barn roof panels.
- Chicken Coop: The letter 'K' appears under both roof panels

### Figures:

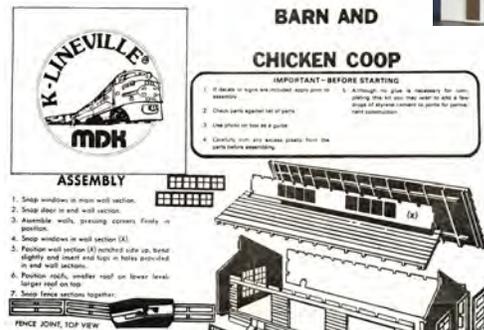
- Farmer's Wife
- Farmer
- 2 Horses
- 2 Cows
- 2 Goats
- 2 Pigs



### Accessories:

- Board fence pieces (Qty 14)

Enjoy! Ed "ICE" Berg, Las Vegas, NV



CHICKEN COOP		BARN	
Part No.	Part Name	Part No.	Part Name
1	Main Front Wall (X)	1	Roof Rafters (Z)
2	Upper Front Wall (X)	2	Side Wall w/door
3	End Wall with door opening	3	Side Wall no door
4	Left End Wall	4	Door
5	Rear Wall	5	Front Wall
6	Large Upper Roof	6	Rear (Side) Wall
7	Small Lower Roof	7	Roof Rafters (Z)
8	Door	8	Side Wall w/door
9	Large Window (3)	9	Side Wall no door
10	Small Window (2)	10	Door
		11	Front Wall
		12	Rear (Side) Wall
		13	Rear (Side) Wall
		14	Ventilator Top (2)

Each kit has been carefully inspected before packing. However, should you have a missing part, please write us giving the item name & number, plus the part name & number. BE SURE TO INCLUDE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED, BUSINESS SIZE ENVELOPE FOR OUR REPLY.

Write to: K-LINEVILLE Customer Service / MM, Inc., PO Box 2831, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

- The CHICKEN COOP is produced in various color schemes. Therefore, in order to insure that you receive the correct part, please specify the color of the walls & roof if you are writing to us about the Chicken Coop.
- The BARN is produced in various color schemes. Therefore, in order to insure that you receive the correct part, please specify the color of the walls & roof if you are writing to us about the Barn.

# CREATIVE USE OF DAMAGED PARTS

## Factory

EDWARD L. JOHNSON #05-380



The last issue described how a small Pizza restaurant was constructed with the two remaining parts from my parts "inventory". After searching eBay a box of miss matched parts was acquired. Inventorying the parts was not too encouraging. The parts were good but didn't excite any inspirations for models. Then a few weeks later I received another larger box of parts from fellow member. The parts from both boxes were spread out on the floor. After three hours of examining the parts I concluded there were several possibilities.

After studying several parts it seemed three factory parts, one firehouse part, the roof of the ice cream kit and a factory platform could be made into a factory.

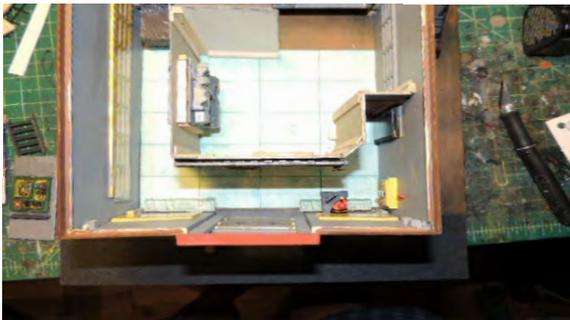


The three factory parts easily fitted together. But the firehouse part would require some trimming. Eliminating one of the firehouse doors seemed to blend these parts into a logical arrangement.



After blocking out one of the large doors on the firehouse part made it easier to fit in. Then painting all the parts a dark brown made everything blend together.

The photos below show the parts together while the photo at the bottom of the left column shows the beginning of some interior details.



This is how far I've gotten with this project.. I'm still not sure how this project will evolve. Usually when I start a project it begins with some rough diagrams. This time I didn't do that so it's a "work in progress". Sort of like a ship without a compass.

So till next time

Eddie J

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1983 Colonial Mansion Scenic Classic (sealed) \$20	1627 Hobo Shacks, \$75
1984 Colonial Church Scenic Classic (sealed) \$25	1618 TV Station w/RARE TV decal \$95
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**No Box Kits, Complete**

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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, Colonial Church  
\$20, Log Cabin Olive Green \$18,

**Accessories**

1050 Outhouse (brown) \$4 ea, Pickup Truck \$6, Telephone Booth 3/\$10,  
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  
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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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# MARX FIGURES

JOHN L. NIEHAUS, #11-682

The figures that Rich has were made by Marx. Rich has three of a total of a total of six figures. The remaining three are: General Custer, Davy Crockett, and Chief Sitting Bull. Photos 1, 2, & 3. All figures were generally molded in a light tan but some were also molded in a somewhat scarce lemon yellow. Photo 4

Some of the figures were included in the Fort Apache playset offered by Sears in their 1955 catalog. Five of the figures can be positively identified in the illustration in the catalog. The missing figure is Davy Crockett. I could only identify two figures in the 1956 Fort Apache set: General Custer and Chief Sitting Bull. They were also sold individually from an American Frontiersmen counter display at 10 cents each. Photo 5

There a reissues of these made in Hong Kong. They can be identified by a "Made in Hong Kong" impression on the underside of the base as well as being molded in a dark brown hard plastic. They also have no names on the bases.

I also found some additional reissues in various colors on eBay for these six figures. As with the Hong Kong issues, these do not have the names on the bases. In addition to the six noted above others including Churchill, Napoleon, Nixon, Washington, Moses, Goldwater, Pope Pious XII, Jackie Gleason, Elliot Ness, Al Capone, and Andrew Jackson were offered. The Davy Crockett figure was offered in blue or gold. These seem to be of lesser quality than the Hong Kong pieces based on the photos accompanying the auction lots. These figures are also listed on Hobby Bunker's website ([hobbybunker.com](http://hobbybunker.com)) in various colors.

Single figure photos for this article were used with the permission of: Eric John's. The counter display used with permission of Mark Hegeman. All of these figures can be viewed on Eric John's website at [marxwildwest.com](http://marxwildwest.com).

*Response to Rich Kotowski's What Members Are Saying question*



Photo 1 Photo 2 Photo 3 Photo 4

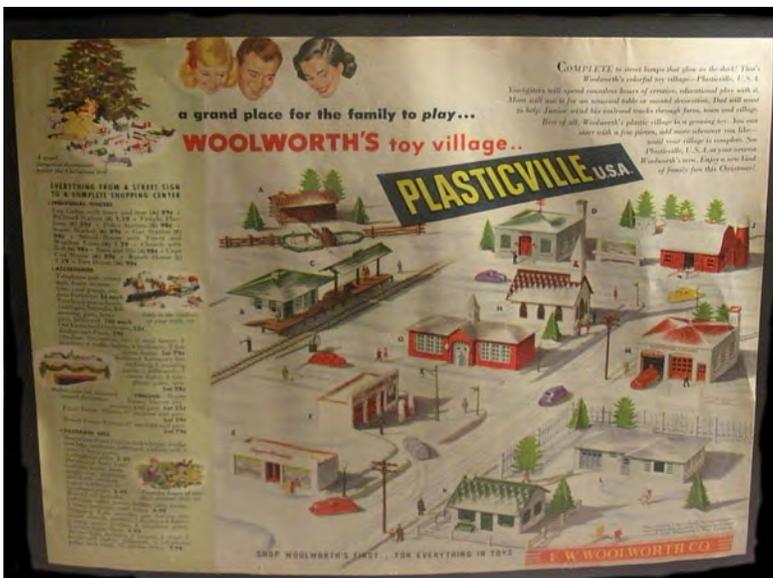
## INFORMATION REQUEST

TONY SANTAY #09-568

Member Tony Santay received the Woolworth Co add in a frame as a gift. He is interested in determining the source and year of publication.



Photo 5



# THOUGHTS FROM A FORMER PCA OFFICER

FRED RUBY #01-09

John Niehaus asked me to portray what it was like to serve the PCA as Vice President and later as President. The short answer is not difficult, fun, fulfilling. The long answer will take on those three areas and expand, hopefully to entice a few fence sitters to come in and help this incredible built-from-the-ground-up organization get some fresh perspectives, continue to grow and let some of the (VERY) experienced officers get back to collecting their favorite mid-century plastic toys.

## NOT DIFFICULT

It turns out that writing a column four times a year only takes a few hours each quarter. Add in another hour to read the agenda and attend the quarterly Executive Committee Meetings and your time commitment becomes trivial. I'm sure you've all read columns I've written, or those that Doug Gilliatt, John Niehaus, Jim Dawes or Joe Kutza wrote in the past. There was one time I was on my way home to Los Angeles from a business trip to Grand Rapids and was in Denver between flight segments. I started thinking about what to write for the next column due in a few days and while waiting, I typed up a stream of consciousness directly into my laptop. When I sent it in, I was surprised at the compliments generated. The current crop of new officers, Chris Matthy and Frank Ross, as well as our current editor, Matthew Harvazinski, all write communications in their own style and all are as well received as was past work if not better. All examples touch on areas of Plasticville (or other plastic village products) collecting in one way or another. I was amazed at how easily the words flowed once I had an idea to follow and started typing. A few edits for spelling, grammar, and word changes and it was a done deal. The meetings were probably the best part of being an officer. Here was a chance to help shape the club into what is today. Assuming you're interested, it will be your chance to shape the club into how you see it. What anniversary building do we want made? How many should we order? Other products? Examples included shirts, pens and return address labels. The current set of new products looks outstanding, including the trucks John secured with custom paint work. **Not difficult and not time consuming.**

## FUN

Of course promoting PCA has brought me in touch with several new Plasticville friends and opened up closer connections with train pals I already had. But the best was making friends with the other officers at our meetings. As you can imagine, the minutes published in *The Villager* are a concise recap of business discussed and decided. But missing from *The Villager* are the jokes and teasing shared between us at every gathering. It took very little time at the first meeting after any officer change to feel a grin start growing as the newbie became acquainted with the easy give and take and join in. **Yeah, fun!**

## FULFILLMENT

As with any civic undertaking, the accomplishments achieved bring a feeling of satisfaction at a job well done and a job completed. There were a few cases of dispute between members we had to settle, there were plenty of goals set (increase e-membership, control costs and reduce workloads). Wording for new articles for club members to follow, finding compromises that we could all support. Finding a web developer (in Scotland), then when a new one was needed and we got ourselves a GREAT one in Colorado (Hiya Doty!). We need a new website host when we found some serious problems with the one we had been using. All these issues, once resolved, gave each of us internal satisfaction. **Fulfilling.**

## SUMMARY

This club cannot continue unless we get a stream of new officers coming in to run the club. The ones in place now are great! But at some point, one of them will decide they'd like to see someone else take over their role. The folks who started the club almost twenty years ago (no kidding? Gosh darn that's a chunk of time!) want to see new folks steer the club to better and better goals and growth. Send your name to John Niehaus if you're interested in running for an office. Send your name to Matt Harvazinski if you're interested in writing a column. Or send a single article to Matt for publication. Future efforts include completing the documentation of all product variations on the website, improvements to the website, arranging for meetings at York, presentations at large events (LCCA, etc.) and promotions via ad-swapping with other clubs and magazines. Just like at the holidays, it's better to give than receive.



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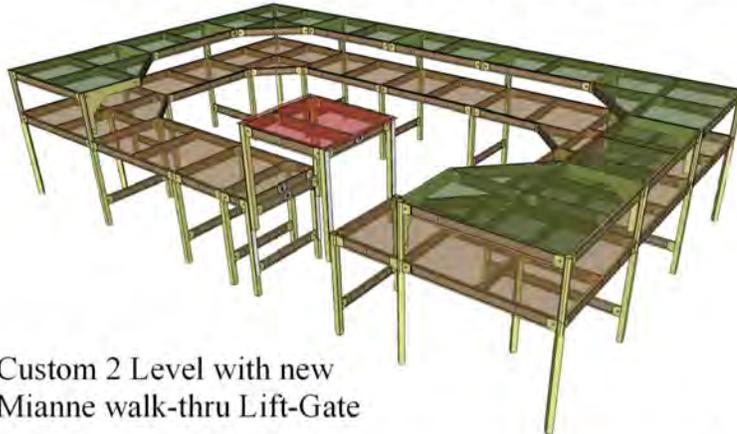
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# DISPLAYING PLASTICVILLE IN SMALL SPACES

NORBERT PRZYBYLSKI #15-910

In the August issue of the Villager you asked for some new material for the newsletter. I have attached pictures of the bottom two shelves of a shelving unit I have in the living room of my home. On these shelves we display items for the various holidays. This past January for our Winter / Valentine Day display, I put together several of the Plasticville buildings along the bottom shelf with some windup trains. To make them more visible in the evening I also added some of the Woodland Scenic Plug in lights to each building. By doing this I got to enjoy seeing this display of buildings a few weeks longer before the display was changed to Easter / Spring.



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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

<p>*** O/S PLASTICVILLE ***</p> <p>Miscellaneous doors &amp; windows</p> <p>Miscellaneous window inserts - specify exact item needed</p> <p>12-A RR &amp; Street Signs - specify text on sign</p> <p>Airport Administration Building</p> <p>Airport Hangar</p> <p>Apartment House</p> <p>Bank</p> <p>Barbecue - specify color</p> <p>Billboard - specify color &amp; type</p> <p>BN-1 Barn</p> <p>Bridge &amp; Pond - specify lt, med, dk green</p> <p>Bungalow</p> <p>Cape Cod</p> <p>Cathedral</p> <p>Cattle Pen</p> <p>CC7 &amp; 8 Churches</p> <p>CC-9 Church</p> <p>Chain Store (5 &amp; 10)</p> <p>Coaling Tower</p> <p>Colonial Church</p> <p>Colonial Mansion</p> <p>Covered Bridge</p> <p>Crossing Gate</p> <p>Dairy Barn</p> <p>Diner</p> <p>Drug Store (1853)</p> <p>Factory</p> <p>Farm Buildings</p> <p>Fire House</p> <p>Footbridge</p> <p>Frosty Bar</p>	<p>Greenhouse</p> <p>Hardware &amp; Pharmacy</p> <p>Hobo Shacks</p> <p>Hospital</p> <p>House Fence</p> <p>House Under Construction</p> <p>Large Gas Station</p> <p>Large Super Market</p> <p>Loading Platform</p> <p>Log Cabin</p> <p>Mobile Home</p> <p>Motel</p> <p>New England Rancher</p> <p>Park Bench</p> <p>Picket Fence</p> <p>Playground Equipment</p> <p>Police Station</p> <p>Post Office</p> <p>Ranch House</p> <p>Roadside Stand</p> <p>Rustic Fence</p> <p>Rustic Gate</p> <p>School House -specify large or small light holes</p> <p>Signal Bridge</p> <p>Small Gas Station</p> <p>Small Super Market</p> <p>Split Level House - no downspouts</p> <p>Station Platform</p> <p>Suburban Station</p> <p>Switch Tower - no signs or smoke-stacks</p> <p>Telephone pole</p> <p>Town Hall</p> <p>Trestle Bridge</p>	<p>Turnpike Interchange</p> <p>TV Station - no globes</p> <p>Two Story House</p> <p>Union Station</p> <p>Watchman's Shanty</p> <p>Water Tank - no spouts</p> <p>Windmill</p> <p>Wishing Well</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** HO PLASTICVILLE ***</p> <p>Miscellaneous window inserts - specify exact item needed</p> <p>Barn</p> <p>Cape Cod House</p> <p>Cathedral</p> <p>Cattle Pen</p> <p>Coaling Station - specify part by letter</p> <p>Contemporary House</p> <p>Drive-In Bank</p> <p>Factory</p> <p>Fire House</p> <p>Freight Station</p> <p>Gas Station</p> <p>Hardware Pharmacy</p> <p>House Under Construction</p> <p>Large Supermarket</p> <p>Mobile Home</p> <p>Motel</p> <p>New Car Showroom</p> <p>Police Station</p> <p>Post Office</p> <p>Railroad Work Car</p> <p>Ranch House</p> <p>School House</p> <p>Split Level</p>
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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.

**PLASTICVILLE**  
**BUILDINGS AND PARTS**

**Bill Weaver**

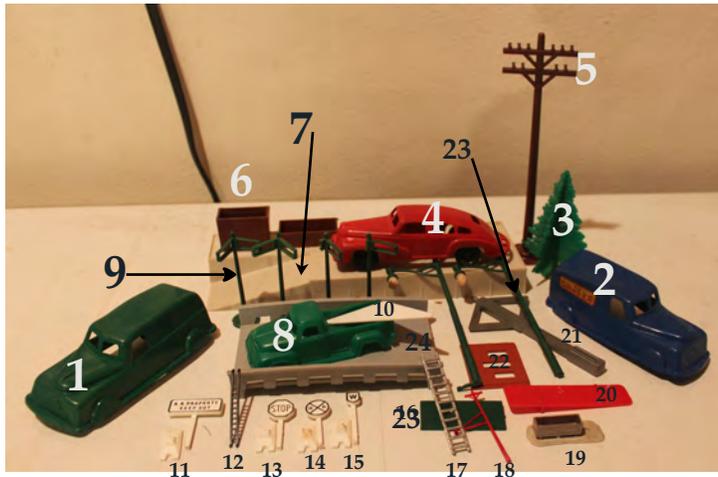
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## Last Call Parts

Parts in these photos are currently in The Parts Bin and will be available for request until January 31, 2016. Please note the item number 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.

*Available parts continued from the previous page.*

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Suburban Station<br/>Super Market<br/>Switch Tower<br/>TV Station<br/>Union Station<br/>Miscellaneous doors &amp; windows<br/>Miscellaneous window inserts - specify exact item needed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** LITTLETOWN ***</p> <p>Barn<br/>Cape Cod<br/>Church<br/>Corner Store<br/>Gas Station<br/>General Store<br/>Loading Platform<br/>Railroad Station<br/>Ranch House<br/>School House<br/>Southern Colonial House</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** MARX ***</p> <p>Barn<br/>Church</p> | <p>Colonial House<br/>Fire House<br/>Gas Station<br/>General Store<br/>Railroad Station<br/>Ranch House<br/>RR &amp; Street Signs - specify text<br/>Rustic Fence - specify color<br/>School House<br/>Super Market<br/>Telephone poles</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** SKYLINE ***</p> <p>Ranch<br/>Church<br/>*** K-Line ***<br/>Chicken Coop<br/>L-Shaped Ranch<br/>Ranch House<br/>Two Story House</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** MISCELLANEOUS ***</p> <p>Guidancetown USA building parts<br/>Lionel billboard inserts - specify design</p> | <p>Lionel RR &amp; Street signs (white) - specify text<br/>Lionel two piece telephone pole<br/>Frosted Flakes Billboard - frames only<br/>Eldon road race barrier fence</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** EMPTY BOXES ***</p> <p>2600 HO Water Tank<br/>2617 HO Cape Cod<br/>2803 HO House Under Construction<br/>45534 Pink Lady Boutique<br/>45521 Rural Station<br/>45526 Joe's Pizza &amp; Video Store<br/>45522 Bud's Convenience Store<br/>1407 Watchman's Shanty - lid only<br/>HO-59 Ranch House<br/>SG-3 Signal Bridge<br/>1406 Playground<br/>Littletown 105 Corner Store - no lid<br/>2402 Switch Tower<br/>SC-4 School House<br/>LM-3 Freight Station Kit<br/>BL-2 Bridge and Pond Unit<br/>Marx Colonial House</p> |
|--|---|--|



# 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 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 \$3.00 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. \*\*\* Only Small and 3X are currently in stock \*\*\*

### 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. 1 black 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.

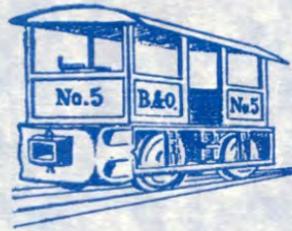
*Do you have an idea for an item? Contact John Niehaus at [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.*

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## WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

Could you get a high resolution scan of the Frosty Bar counter scene and post it on the web page? I've never seen that before and even a reproduction would look great in the Frosty Bar on my layout.

Mark DiVecchio, #01-71

«« »»

Fabulous find of the Art Deco 1401 box. I had no idea it existed. It has to be the most valuable Plasticville box there is. Love the insert on the box bottom. Could PCA get the original graphics from Bachmann and get permission to produce reproductions for their members? If the graphics are lost, could we use a high resolution scan from this box? I think the members would love them. Great find! Great article.

Mike Cedro, #01-28

«« »»

You pose some very good questions. I will try, in my spare time to give my educated/researched thoughts on how many boxes may have been double stamped. My first impression is that these are what I would call transition boxes that were marked with both numbers when the stock number was changing. There are HO listings in the mid-1950's catalogs that show both numbers. My educated guess is that they were marked with both numbers as dealers may have been using obsolete order forms with the old number which meant that the Bachmann employees pulling orders would have to know both the old and the new stock number.

John Niehaus, #00-3

*In reference to the article "Your Feedback Requested - Dealer Boxes" The Villager, Vol 15. No. 3.*

«« »»

I really enjoyed your article about citizens molded in color. I do have a couple of questions about your article. I noted on E-Bay that there were a number sold but 6 of them had a plastic post on the bottom. Since the posts are a different color they appear to be a post-molding add-on. And they are all the same size. Are these factory? Could they possibly have been used for cake decorations?

Also I have seen Plasticville citizens which are being market as Factory Pre-Painted. They appear to be the same colors as the molded figures. Do you know anything about these? Did they run out of citizens molded in color and had to scramble to fill orders or were these the first ones produced? I know with Lionel often the first issues of an item were

Don Huovinen #11-714

*I don't know anything about the pre-painted figures. In my opinion unless they are in a sealed factory package it is hard to determine if they were factory original. I have seen the figures with the peg on the bottom, my understanding is that they came with the #1225 display piece which had a white foam base. I think that the tress with that display also had pegs. There is a photo of this piece on the PCA website. -Matt*

«« »»

I received my pair of 1955 Chevy pickups (Plasticville Construction Company) after an agonizing seven week wait. It was worth the wait. The trucks are almost too nice to be parked at the site of the last house under construction at the Sheridan Woods Development on my layout. I am going to apply license plates to the front and back of the truck and paint the rear tail lights, red on the upper and white on the lower half for backup lenses. I hope your vision of Divco milk trucks labeled for Plasticville Dairy comes true. ... The pickup beds will be partially filled with tool boxes and building materials.

Jim Bork #15-916

*Please be sure to send me a photo of your enhanced trucks when complete for publication in a future newsletter. Editor*

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# PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

**'S**treets for O-Gauge Model Railroads, A Guide to Operable Model Roadways on O-Gauge Toy Train Layouts, H Lee Willis, 90 pages, soft cover, 9×10¼, \$14.95. Self-published by the author.

The word streets when referring to a train layout generally brings up the vision of gray or black painted places on the layout depicting roads. The word 'Streets in this instance is used as a collective noun for K-Line and Lionel's SuperStreets, as well as Williams by Bachmann's E-Z Streets powered roadway system and vehicles.

The book is divided into seven chapters, the first being a general overview. The second and third chapters discuss what is, or was, available regarding track, power, and available stock vehicles. Chapters four and five go into the planning and setting up of the roadways. These two chapters are what I consider to be the meat of this book as it discusses required steps to ensure that the roadways, especially when set up as two lane operate without vehicular mishap. Chapter six discusses how to safely run the vehicles as well as how to care for them to ensure a long life. This chapter also contains charts to assist in ensuring that the vehicles are run at their optimal speed.

The last chapter, "Road and Vehicle Customizing Projects" lay out the roadway to ensure safe passage of vehicles in opposite directions as well as the needed clearance around corners both internal and external. It also illustrates how various stock vehicles can be changed to represent a totally different one without disassembling the vehicle.

Every chapter is very well illustrated with actual photos with references to each photo in the text. If you have ever considered adding vehicle activity to your layout you need this book. It will definitely save you from some of the issues the author discovered and documented in this book.

**M**odifying and Scratch-Building O-Gauge 'Streets Vehicles, Improving and Building SuperStreets and E-Z Street Cars, Buses, and Trucks, H Lee Willis, 148 pages, soft cover, 9×10¼, \$19.95. Self-published by the author.

I don't recall where I have included two book titles in one review. As this book is the companion to the 'Streets for O-Gauge Model Railroads it seemed to be the thing to do.

The author states in the Preface that he started converting various scale vehicles into 'Streets vehicles to run on his train layout in 2005. His impetus for this was that K-Line, Lionel, and now Williams by Bachmann have provided only five basic vehicle

configurations although in various colors and trim variations. He wanted a greater variety of vehicles. This book is the culmination of his early experiments as well as his more recent successes.

There are nine chapters in this book. The first chapter is appropriately names, "Introduction and Basic Reference Information. There is a table listing the cost of conversion for three different vehicles discusses in detail in the following chapters. The chapter also notes both hand and power tools that one may need for the modifications as well as the modeling material and glues to be used.

The second chapter delves into the differences between the wheels and the roller power pickups used at various times. They have changed somewhat with each manufacturer. A chart is included in this chapter listing the dimensions of the various wheels and on what vehicle each was/is used. One figure shows how just changing the diameter of the wheels on a pickup truck causes the viewer to perceive it as a light duty pickup through a heavy duty truck.

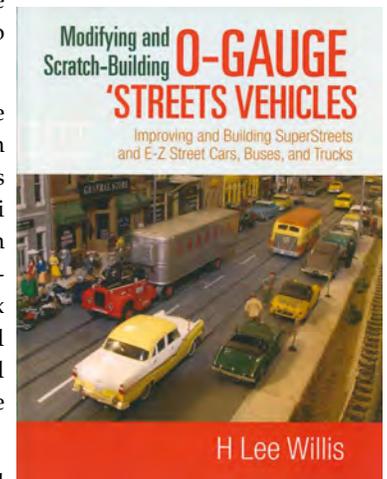
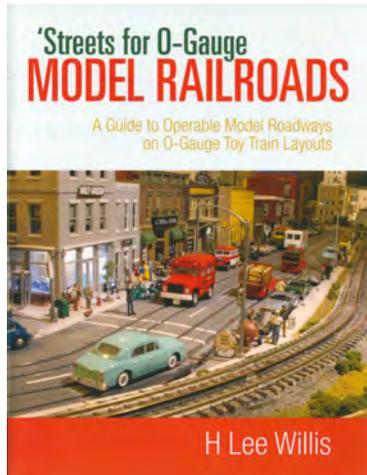
Chapters three and four contain illustrations of how the author converted the only available auto into a light duty pickup truck and a station wagon – chapter three – and how he converted die cast cars into 'Streets vehicles – chapter four. The vast majority of the conversions shown in this book come with complete illustrations showing the progression of steps taken to complete the vehicle.

Chapter five discusses the problems encountered with larger and longer vehicles such as trolleys and semi trailer vehicles. Along with that chapter and appropriately placed, chapter six delves into the power and traction requirements and modifications that may be needed.

Chapters seven, eight, and nine, show how the author modified trucks, streetcars, buses, trolleys, and tractor trailer trucks into 'Streets vehicles. Many, again, are accompanied by step by step illustrations.

'Streets for O-Gauge Model Railroads and Modifying and Scratch-Building O-Gauge 'Streets Vehicles are only available through Amazon.

**PS:** Mr Willis has also penned a fictional biography of a movie star. The name of the book is Veranda Turbine. I found it to be an entertaining read. You may also. It is also only available through Amazon.



**The Historical Guide to North American Railroads,** Third Edition, 320 pages, softcover, 8¼×10¾, 24.99. Published by Kalmbach Books.

This book is a gold mine of information. I do not believe I have ever seen a single publication with as many subject railroads as this one! For starters there are over 125 railroads who are the subjects of one of the chapters in this book. That does not include all of the other railroads, railways, etc. that are mentioned that were part of these subject railroads. I did not count the list of railroads in the Index but am estimating that it contains somewhere between 500 and 700 railroads by name.

The book has the customary foreword and introduction. There is also a twelve page brief history of North American railroading. This brief history includes early Canadian and Mexican railroads.

Each subject railroad is given a minimum of a single page of descriptive history along with relevant photos. Also included are chapters on Canadian National and Canadian Pacific. Some of the more dominant railroads have more than one page dedicated to them, as one would expect, such as the Union Pacific, Chicago Burlington & Quincy, Pennsylvania, and the New York Central. These and others have from three to over six pages dedicated to their history.

The photos and maps in this book are super! You will find both color and black & white photos related the subject railroad's era for each railroad. Included in each chapter is a Facts & Figures

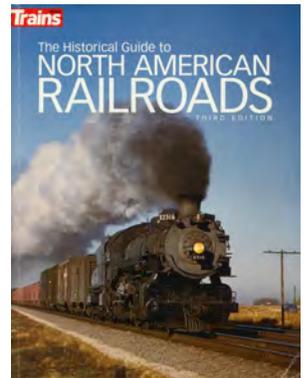
**1930s–1950s "Little People" seated figures.** Golden Gate Depot. \$24.95 plus \$5 S&H. How often have you wished for seated figures to populate your stations and park benches, not to mention inside your passenger cars? This set contains thirty six figures. There are two female poses and four male poses with six pieces of each pose. One set of women are sitting with their crossed hands holding their purse to their lap. The other set are sitting likewise but merely with their hands crossed.

All four sets of male figures are dressed in a painted shirt and a tie of various colors. They are also wearing suit coats or long coats. The figures in one set seem to be relaxing with their hands crossed on their hip. The second set possibly have a magazine on their lap as indicated by white paint. They are also wearing fedoras. The third set is definitely reading a rather large newspaper. The detail on the end of the newspaper shows grooves as if it is folded. The fourth set is unique. The hair on the figures is not painted completely making them look as if they have a bald pate.

sidebar that lists miles, locomotives, and freight cars The years being reported vary with each railroad. The sidebar also contains a listing of reporting marks and historical society websites.

I mentioned the Index of this book earlier. This book may be the place to start if you want to research what may be a little known railroad I just finished reading a book on a railroad between Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia that was instrumental in the Confederacy protecting Charleston and its harbor during the Civil War. It is a repository of little know facts related to some of the railroads. I do not feel that anyone who purchases this book will be disappointed in it with its historical information as well as the accompanying photos and maps.

**The Historical Guide to North American Railroads** is available from the publisher at their website which is, <https://kalmbachhobbystore.com/railroading/books>. Click on See All in the upper right hand corner of section with the title Books to locate it. I found the book available on Amazon's website for a low of \$14.02 for a new copy and on Barnes & Noble's website for \$23.57.



They also seem to be sporting a vest or a textured sweater under their coats. Their eyelashes are also painted to match their hair.

No two figures in a pose are painted alike. Some of the figures have up to five different colors applied. Hair colors and even shoes are painted differently. All in all, these are some very nicely detailed figures. They are detailed enough that if you wished you could add eyes and lips if you desired. I would be more than happy to add these to my Plasticville buildings or as passengers travelers in my passenger cars.

The "Little People" can be purchased directly from Golden Gate Depot via their website [goldengatedepot.com](http://goldengatedepot.com). Their website also lists some dealers who stock their products.



## THE FREE PCA CLASSIFIED ADS BRING RESULTS!

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

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

# THE VILLAGER CLASSIFIED ADS

## FOR SALE

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.

Ending May 2017

Long time collector thinning out collection: Plasticville, Storytown, Littletown, all boxed and complete. Send me your wants by e-mail richsipes60@gmail.com, phone 570-751-8028, or mail. #01-39 Richard Sipes, 541 Sandy Valley Road, White Haven, PA 18661.

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 in factory sealed bag, \$12, postpaid. #00-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021.

## WANTED

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 Store Gray 'L' shaped wall part 'C' and white roof. wrkidd2000@yahoo.com. #09-584 Wesley Kidd, 105 Linda Ct., Jeannette, PA 15644.

Ending May 2017

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

Ending August 2017

Catalog number BB-9,1028 1950 billboard frames with the following inserts: "Drive carefully school zone", "Come on Kids - wear Majestic sunglasses", "Solarex lady on billboard", "Solarex man on billboard", "Solarex man with fishing pole", "Solarex car with green background". #08-543 Robert Stout, 500 East Spring St. Apartment # 34, Olean, NY, 14760-2930. Ph. 716-378-6292.

## FOR TRADE

Ending November 2016

Looking for citizens molded in color (not flesh!) Willing to trade my doubles for yours. Contact me for a list of doubles and include yours. Matt Harvazinski, 4115 West Ave. J7, Lancaster, CA 93536. villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

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.



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with **BLINKING LIGHT**  
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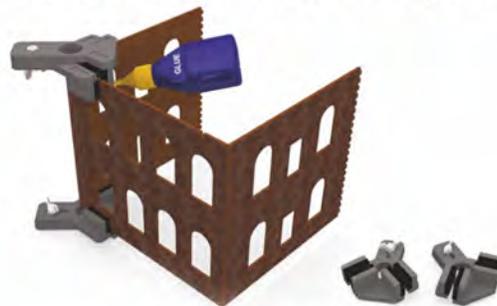
## NEW TRUSS BRIDGE with BLINKING LIGHT LETS YOU CONNECT YOUR E-Z TRACK® IN A FLASH

With integral E-Z Track® clips, this Truss Bridge with Blinking Light expands the E-Z Track® system. Visit your favorite hobby dealer to connect your E-Z Track® in a flash.

### HANDY TOOLS TO MAKE GLUING PROJECTS A SNAP



**MAGNETIC SNAP & GLUE SET**  
(4 magnetic clamps with 16 magnets)  
Item No. 39009 • MSRP \$65.00



**RIGHT ANGLE HOLD & GLUE SET**  
(2 right angle holders)  
Item No. 39010 • MSRP \$26.00



**MAGNETIC ADJUSTABLE SNAP & GLUE SET**  
(2 adjustable angle magnetic clamps  
with 8 magnets)  
Item No. 39011 • MSRP \$42.00

(Suggested use shown; glue not included)



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