



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 16

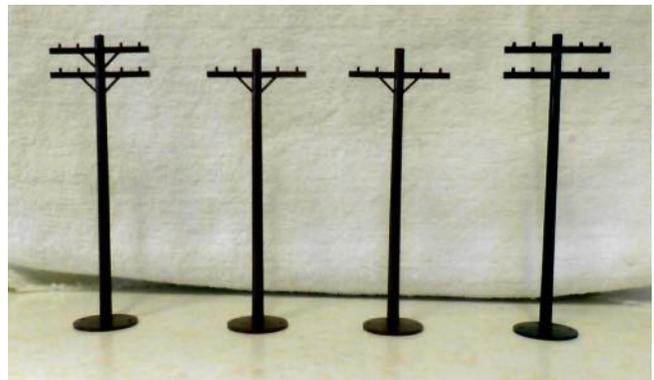
May 2017

Number 2

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

LOUIS VISI # 12-777

PCA member Louis Visi submitted these two photos along with a description. What you are looking at are two telephone poles with only one cross bar! Louis reports that they are about 1/2 inch shorter than the two cross bar counterparts. He states that they show no signs of alteration or damage. They have the same beveled tops that the standard poles have. They also feature the standard "BB" emblem in the base. If you have come across something like this let us know!



Submit your interesting finds and comments to:
villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

SPOTTED ALONG THE RAILS

JIM STEED # 01-55

Looks like plenty of activity is going on with a delivery of sand from the Plasticville Sand and Cement Company hopper car, while the Plasticville Construction Company is completing necessary repairs on the tenth anniversary PCA barn. The scene is shot on Jim's large Great Georgia Central & Southern RR layout.



The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

President: Chris Matthy

Vice President: Frank Ross

Webmaster: John L. Niehaus

www.plasticvilleusa.org

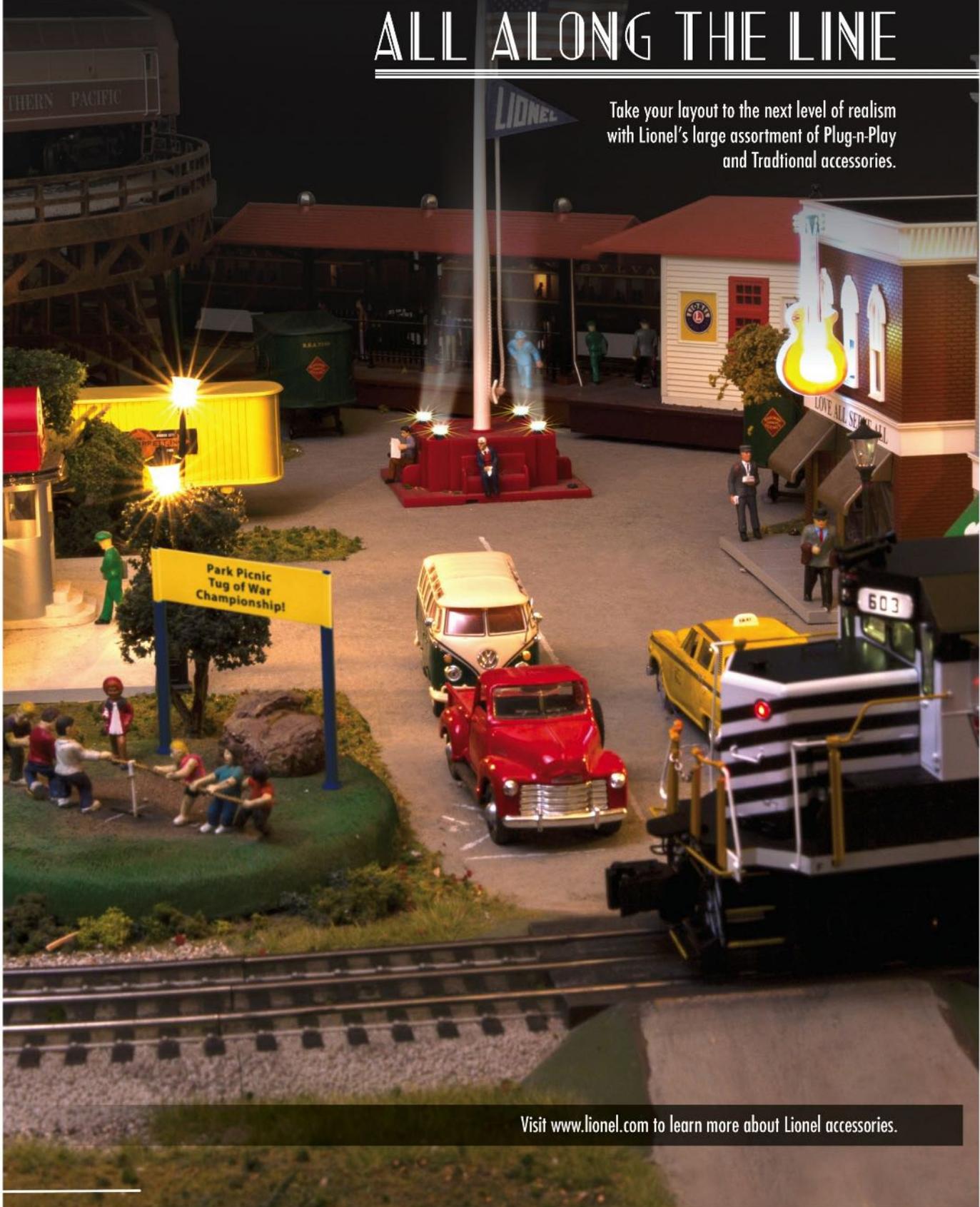
Secretary/Treasurer: John L Niehaus
Newsletter Editor: Matthew Harvazinski

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Do you ever watch American Pickers on the History Channel? They've dabbled in toy trains a few times, but I have yet to see them get excited about discovering the mother lode of Plasticville. What truly amazes me – and in some ways saddens me – is how many people there are in this country who have accumulated, even hoarded “stuff.” We surely are one of the few countries in this world where so many people have the resources to hoard and collect. Now I say this knowing that we are part of a collectors organization, so I'm not trying to cut off my own nose or make us feel bad. I especially like it when one of you shares how our hobby has been able to reach out to people and make their lives a little more joyful. I remember how much fun it was a few years ago when Bachmann donated a number of pre-built HO buildings to the PCA and I was able to present the guys at the local senior center in Toledo with a case of buildings for the layout they had just started.

But back to collecting. Lou Palumbo reflected in a recent *Classic Toy Trains* article about the increasing number of people he sees who are trying to dispose of a parent's layout or collection. Now I'm hoping, God willing, that I have another good 20 years or more to enjoy life, but I have to admit I'm already thinking: what are my kids gonna do with all this “stuff”? I watched this happen with my grandfather, who had a life-time of train show purchases stacked to the ceiling in his basement when he left us. Thankfully, there were two uncles of mine and myself who readily took what we could – my uncles had to do a coin flip for the Lionel Hiawatha – and another nephew took the rest to train shows.

But that isn't always the case. You assume rightly if you figure my kids haven't followed Dad into the hobby. I've also realized that I've come to limits, so to speak. The layout is never going to

get any bigger and there are trains – and Plasticville – in storage boxes under the layout that will never see the light of day. I've already begun thinning the Flyer collection, vintage slot cars, and model car kits that will never see glue from me.

But if I don't get that far, I want to at least be a good steward of what I have – which means, first of all, an inventory. The kids will have no idea what most of this stuff is, let alone what it is worth. I actually have a pretty good idea of what I have and most of it is in the computer. But maybe the PCA can help me and you in this. A number of years ago I wrote an article suggesting we come up with a standardized numbering system. Lately I've been wondering: could we develop a checklist system for Plasticville? The checklists could follow the basic divisions already on the website, they could be downloadable for members, and they could serve the double purpose of knowing what we have as well as what we're on the hunt for. Truthfully, I already have my own list, many pages long, that goes with me to train shows because there is no way I could remember every color or box variation that I have. We're at the point where we are getting ready to add some pictures to the PCA website, and I don't think it would be that hard to add in these features. Let me know if you think this would be a useful addition (using the e-dress on p.1).

As is noted in this issue, many and various obstacles kept us from getting the Exec Committee together before newsletter deadlines, so we will have to wing it over the summer – but we're actually very good at email discussions. We are one step further along in the anniversary project. We also are one step closer to fall elections and the need for some members to step up to the plate to help us (see last issue if you missed that). Time flies when you're having fun! Have a good summer!

Chris Matthy
PCA President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Finally spring is in the air, and unlike last year, it has come in earlier. It seemed to me that last year we had nothing but cloudy days and rain through mid May.

We had a fairly mild response of suggestions from our members about what structure(s) should be considered for our twentieth year anniversary piece, and as you could imagine, they were all over the map. Two units had the most responses, and I can't at this time divulge what they are. Hopefully, whatever is decided will please our membership.

I never claimed to be a Plasticville expert, but I do have a fair knowledge of the structures in O Gauge. I was enlightened by one of my train buddies, Greg Hurd from Denver CO who has an exceptional American Flyer collection as well as 3 layouts in his basement. His layout was recently the cover story in *S Gaugian* magazine. I always knew that Lionel sold quite a bit of Plasticville under their name which I believe can be quite valuable today with the original boxes, but I didn't know that American Flyer also sold some. He pointed out his Switch Tower to



me that was offered by American Flyer, but I don't know in what time frame. It has an interesting color scheme, along with the roof signs that say “Cedar Hill Junction”, so I decided to share it with our members. I hope that I'm not the only Plasticville guy

that wasn't aware of this building, and I also don't know of any other pieces offered by American Flyer.

The PCA is still looking for volunteers to step up and become our next Secretary/Treasurer or Secretary or Treasurer position as well as the other responsibilities presented in our February newsletter. Please consider getting involved in this fine association as it is a rewarding experience, and like any organization, is only as good as it's members. Getting new members involved creates new ideas to make the organization even better.

I'm looking forward to the next York train show to hopefully fill my Plasticville collection with color schemes of buildings I do not have yet, and see what all the new ideas and products the industry has to offer.

As Lou Palumbo always says, "Keep Searchin".

Frank Ross
PCA Vice President

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



TCA convention Show N Tell

I am still in need of some help with the upcoming Show N Tell to be held at the TCA convention in Pittsburg. The date and time for the Show N Tell is June 29 from 1:00-3:00PM. Please let me know if you are going to attend

the convention as I sure could use some help with the program. The format will be the same as at our York meetings, only at the TCA convention.

Member passing

I was informed by Garth Monaghan's wife that he had passed away on August 11, 2016. Garth was member #05-384. As with others, Garth did not have an inventory of his Plasticville nor his trains. His wife is still trying to come up with a comprehensive list.

That is the same with the widow and daughter of Edwin Boyer. Edwin had such a large inventory, especially of Plasticville, that they are still trying to put together a comprehensive list.

My wife knows how to access a database containing a listing of the vast majority of my Plasticville and other train related items. This should make it quite easy for her to provide a list of my entire inventory to someone interested in what I have if something happens to me. Be kind to your family and create a list. It does not have to be on a computer. Even if it is on paper as I did before computers your family will appreciate your foresight.

Member update request

Can anyone give me an update on the status of Gary R Jones of West Chester, PA? I received an undeliverable reply to a recent email to him. When I attempted a telephone call, I was informed by a recording that the phone number listed for him was not in use. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

We need volunteers

All of the PCA officers, our newsletter editor, and a few other members are volunteers. They volunteer their time to ensure that the PCA continues to exist and grow. The PCA needs volunteers for the positions listed on page 7 of the February issue of *The Villager* and page 7 of this issue. There has been only one inquiry regarding the volunteer positions. The only elective position/s on that list are the Secretary and Treasurer, which is currently a combined position. All other positions are strictly "step up and volunteer" positions.

I have stated in past newsletters that I do not intend to run for the Secretary/Treasurer office for the 2018/2019 term for various reasons. In addition to the reasons I have stated before I can now add health reasons. That position must be filled in order for the PCA to continue to enjoy its Federal 501(c)3 tax exempt status as well as ensure the future viability of the Association.

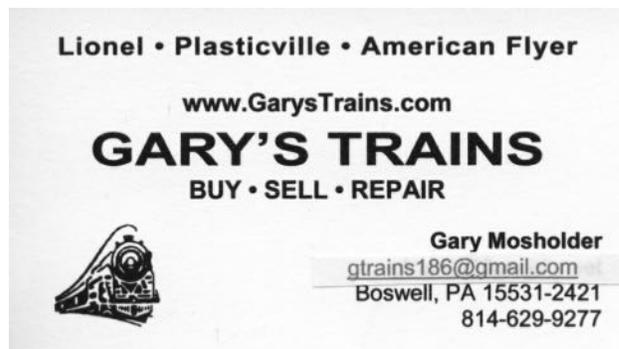
A call for nominations for the elected offices - President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer - will be announced in the August newsletter. Please give thoughtful consideration regarding running for these offices or volunteering for either the Secretary or Treasurer position. Be assured that you will have the full support of the current officers and others to ensure that your "stepping up and volunteering" will be an enjoyable and gratifying experience.

Reproduction window inserts revisit

I passed around reproduction window inserts from an eBay seller at last April's York meet. What I failed to do at that time was to provide his eBay seller's name. He can be found on eBay as seller DPGLLG. Here is a direct link to his eBay store listing <http://stores.ebay.com/Dave-Linda-Collectables>. He offers inserts for every Plasticville building as well as inserts for both Plasticville and Lionel billboard frames.

These are the very best reproductions I have seen. These are definitely not merely scans of original inserts. These are printed on glossy photo paper using a five color printer and then laminated onto card stock. Inserts for the CC-9 type churches are printed in the same manner or on clear plastic stock used with overhead projectors. If you have a few buildings missing inserts that are going to be put out for sale at train shows you may want to consider purchasing his inserts.

John L Niehaus
Secretary/Treasurer



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EDITOR'S COLUMN



I want to apologize for the delay in this month's newsletter. I had some international travel for work and my part time teaching job consumed all of my free time. It is May 9th and I am just getting started! I will restate my warning from last time that the "What Members are Saying" (WMAS) and "Classified Ads" sections are in real trouble. The number of submissions is dwindling fast. I am happy to report a few quick photo submissions by members through mail and e-mail and I was happy to be able to include them in this issue.

We are in need of a new HO contributor. You may have noticed a lack of HO articles recently, if you are interested in taking over please let me know as soon as possible. While I would like someone that can commit to four articles a year I would be OK

with a two-article a year commitment. Again, you are not signing up for a life term. Just contribute while it is fun, then pass on the torch when it becomes a "job".

I really want to thank all of the contributors for getting their material in way ahead of me this time, it makes my job a lot easier.

I still get a fair amount of my member submitted content forwarded to me by Secretary Niehaus. This is extra work for him, if you have newsletter material please consider sending it to me directly. My contact information is below.

Matt Harvazinski
The Villager Editor
villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org
4115 W. Ave. J7 Lancaster CA, 93536

THE YORK REPORT

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI, #11-682

This year at York I spent more time looking at Plasticville than ever before, partially because I wasn't seeing a lot of American Flyer that peaked my interest. Prices again were all over the map. The most over priced item I saw was a house under construction with light grey walls for \$100! Over in another hall you could find the more desirable dark grey walled version for that price. Other prices I recorded included DE-7 chrome diner \$15, 1800 large gas station \$35, HS-6 hospital with sealed furniture \$35, HF-2 dealer box \$150, HP-8 w/ insert \$15. Loose phone booths \$5, orange bus, \$20. I also saw a light up display but I forgot the price, it was in the \$300 - \$350 range. Overall there was a lot of good quality Plasticville available, boxed, clean, and complete for reasonable prices. Aside from the HF-2 dealer box I did not see any real rare pieces out on display.

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! Overall I would score this meet at 3 bars. The great part about these lower prices is that it is a great time to get started on filling in those missing gaps in your collection!



We had a smaller turnout this year, about 20 people for the lunch time meeting. Show and tell was shorter this year. Buddy Meade showed a Littletown 110 box over stamped with the number 210, (the 200 series contained the building plus extras like figures). He also showed an example of green little town fence which is pictured on the right. I showed a tree with a base that had holes for a bird bath in the base. Frank Ross showed us a SM-7 box and pointed out there were additional window inserts that could be cut from the box. I have often wonder if that was why that box is not that easy to find. Other members seemed to agree with that sentiment. John Niehaus showed a piece of marbled fence with a range of colors including black, grey and white. He also showed

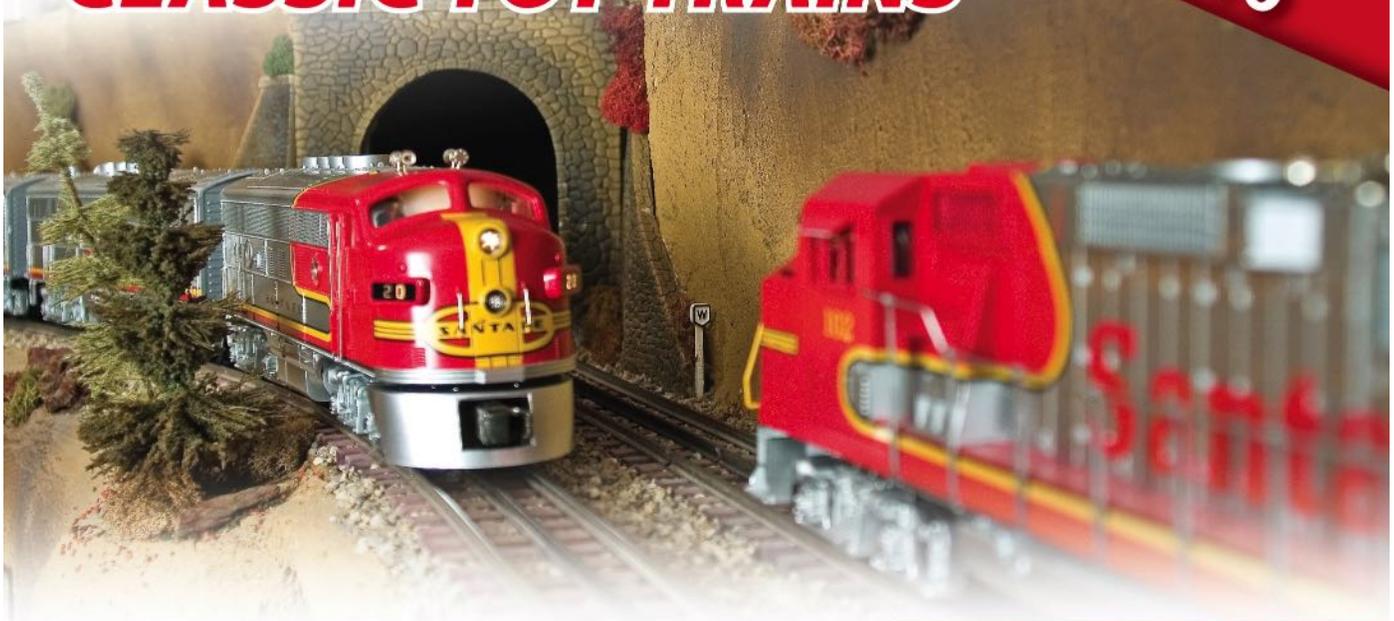
a post office roof that was shiny grey similar to the hardware store roof. It had a flag post hole but was partially filled in.

Following the show and tell we had some lengthy discussions on the fire house and all of the variations. Including the fact that a fire tuck will not fit through the door on the earliest models. I hope that this will turn into an article in the future. We also talked about one of my favorite topics, Plasticville autos and all of the colors available. I hope to pen an article on that soon. Because we finished up quickly we had time for a group photo.



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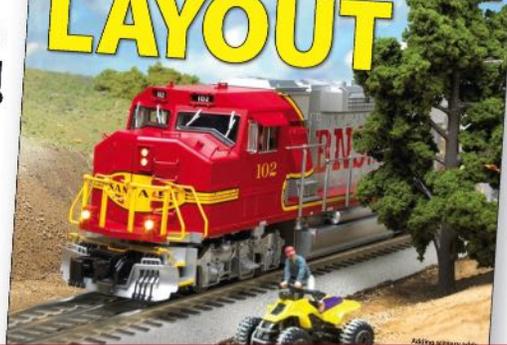
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APRIL 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The April 2017 Executive Committee meeting was unable to be convened due to Committee member scheduling conflicts

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Niehaus, our current Secretary/Treasurer has indicated that he does not wish to run for that office for the 2018/2019 term. We asked him to make up a list of the various functions he is currently performing for the Association and to break them out into suggested offices or chairman positions. Our approved list is below.

Please take a look at the list and let us know if you feel that you could be the right candidate for one or more of the positions. Be assured that you will have the complete support of all members of the Executive Committee for any of the positions for which you volunteer.

Your comments, or better yet, your offer to fill one of the positions listed below can be sent to any of us by email through the website using the <http://www.plasticvilleusa.org> contact link. Pick the officer to whom you want to send your message from those listed. You may also mail your offer to volunteer for a position to: Plasticville Collectors Association, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207.

Secretary:

- Keeps records of all meetings, business, memberships, handles correspondence, and makes necessary reports.
- Updates membership database as circumstances dictate.
- Removes non-renewing members' access credentials to the website prior to publication of the February newsletter.
- Processes membership applications.
- Attends to such other duties as directed by the Executive Committee.

Treasurer:

- Collects, deposits, and draws all Association money, under the direction of the Executive Committee.
- Processes membership renewal remittances including printing and mailing membership cards.
- Maintains membership database and website access database.
- Processes member remittals for charges incurred from their use of *The Parts Bin* program.
- Processes payments from advertisers .
- Updates advertiser database and communicates to the newsletter editor all advertiser additions and deletions as they occur. (Advertising Coordinator is responsible for communicating ad copy changes to the editor.)

- Attends to such other duties as directed by the Executive Committee.

Membership Renewal Chairman:

- Creates and mails a membership renewal notice to those whose memberships expire at the end of the current calendar year.
- Provides Membership Retention Chairman with a list of members who have not renewed for the following calendar year.
- Provides Membership Retention Chairman with a revised list of those members who have not renewed for the following calendar year.

Membership Retention Chairman:

- Contacts members who have not renewed membership for the next calendar year by email when provided a list from the Membership Renewal Chairman .
- Follows up with phone calls to non-renewing members upon receipt of a revised list from the Membership Renewal Chairman.

Advertising Coordinator:

- Contacts current advertisers to determine if they intend to continue advertising in the following year's newsletters.
- Creates and mails invoices to all advertisers indicating that they will be advertising in the following year's newsletters.
- Creates advertising copy for all advertisers indicating that they wish to use that service.
- Communicates to the newsletter editor all changes to ad copy as they are provided by advertisers.
- Actively solicits additional advertisers.

Newsletter Publisher:

- Proofreads newsletters and communicates any corrections to the editor prior to the finalization of each newsletter.
- Downloads finalized newsk
- Procures printing of the new

Mails the printed newsletters.



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 June 30, 2017.

- Donald C Kanai, Verona, PA
- Dale A Mickley, Gainesville, FL
- Jeannie L Farner, Shepherdsville, KY
- Rodney G Gaumer, Boiling Springs, PA
- Stanley J Okusewsky III, Youngstown, OH
- Abbyrae S Wisniewski, Fredericksburg, VA
- Thomas M Conboy, Rockton, IL
- Christian P Conte, Bath, OH
- Thomas E J Conte, Bath OH
- Robert W Ruhlman, Alden, NY
- Eric Malgren, Baraboo, WI
- David P Miller, Aston, PA
- David B Carlsen, Algonquin, IL
- William G Aleks, Rockford, IL
- Harlan M Cheatham II, Chambersburg, PA

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of March 31, 2017. Their names are now permanently listed in the on-line roster.

- Graham J Cook, Leicestershire, United Kingdom
- Thomas K Brady, Bensalem, PA
- Don C Kaiser, New Athens, IL
- Edward A Abraham, Allegany, NY
- William L Houck, Ellicott City, MD
- E Holste, Hopkins, MO
- Billy R Mills, Decatur, TN
- (L) Ted Heaney, Mew York, NY
- Gene E Nelson, Denver, CO
- Wallace M Kotyk, Sharon, PA
- Larry Middleton, Mentor, OH



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K-LINE: BOXES, BAGS, AND BLISTERPACKS

Box Type 10

DONALD W. HUOVINEN #11-714



This was the second box K-Line used for their Marketplace Series. The new box is designed in the style of and is reminiscent of the first box used for the Marketplace Series, Box 6. I have designated this new box as Box 10.



Front

As the Marketplace Series was fairly successful, this box is relatively common; highlights/details of the box are as follows.

- The box has a blue background with a yellow border. There are four yellow stripes running across the lower portion of the box front. The stripes are the same width.
- A new rectangular K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo is in the upper left corner. Gone is the round blue and yellow K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo.
- MARKETPLACE SERIES is printed in white in the lower right corner.
- The boxed item is pictured slightly off center to the right and is surrounded by a yellow border stripe
- O SCALE and K-LINEVILLE® BUILDING KIT is in the upper portion of the box.
- On the left portion of the box front the item is described as “Easy to assemble/Parts snap together/All parts pre colored/Realistic detailing”
- Below this is the Item number and Item Description
- The top and bottom of the box are identical. The left fourth has “K-LINEVILLE®/BUILDING KIT”, “MADE IN CHI-

NA” and K-Line’s address. The left center has a photo of the item, the right center has “MARKETPLACE/SERIES” and the item number and description below that. The far right has “O SCALE/EASY TO ASSEMBLE/SNAP TOGETHER FIT/PRE-COLORED PARTS/REALISTIC DETAILING”.

- The right and left ends of the box are similar to each other. The left third has “K-LINEVILLE/BUILDING KIT/MARKETPLACE SERIES/the item number and description”. The right third has “O SCALE/EASY TO ASSEMBLE/SNAP TOGETHER FIT/PRE-COLORED PARTS/REALISTIC DETAILING”. On the right end of the box, the center third has a photo of the boxed item. On the left end of the box, the center third has a bar code.
- The back of the box is blank

There are several items of interest about this box. The first is that the now familiar round blue and yellow K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS logo has been replaced by a new rectangular logo.

Secondly the box states that the Marketplace Series buildings were now made in China, as opposed to Taiwan.

In several places there is mention of pre-colored parts. In the case of K-4170, 32 Figures with Paint and K-4175, 23 Farm Animals with Paint, the figures obviously need to be painted, as the picture of these items shows the paints and brush included in the box. Of course the bigger question might be why were these items included in the Marketplace Series? They certainly don’t seem to fit in.

Right



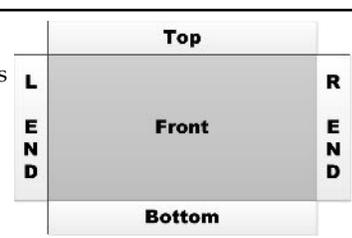
Finally, Boxes 6, 7 and 8 all included the wording “Model may be painted to match photograph”. This box does not include any such label, but it should have. In some cases the model included in the box is definitely not nearly as colorful as the photo. Probably the most egregious example is K-4101 Bookstore and Laundry. The box shows a beautiful light gray building with a black upper façade. On the bookstore side both the door and window frames are painted yellow. On the laundry side, the door is outlined in black and the window frames are outlined in blue. The shrubs on the side of the building are painted green. I’m



Top & Bottom

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



sure a number of purchasers were disappointed when they opened the box and found only a dull unpainted light gray plastic building. All of the buildings I have observed are the same size: 10 1/2" x 6 1/2" x 1 5/8".

Left



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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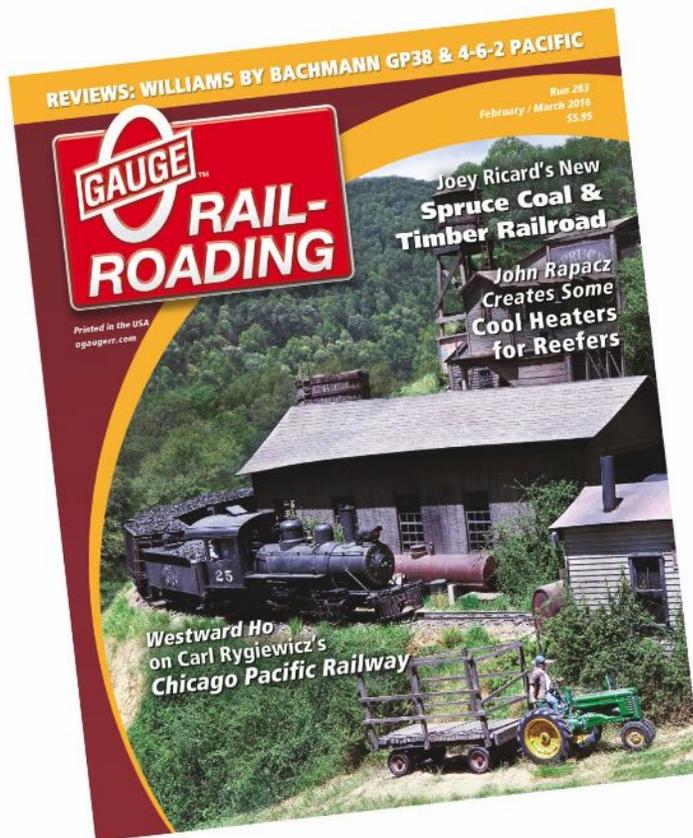
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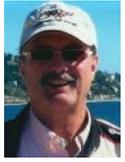
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PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 211

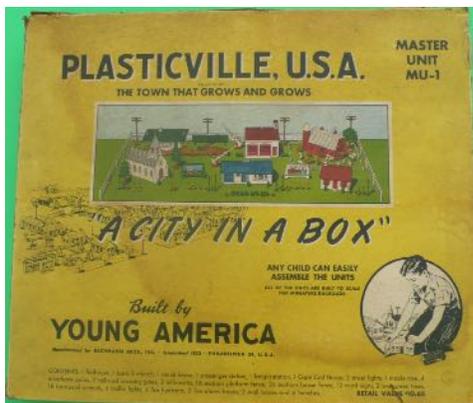
The Letter Era Cities in a Box

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154



Plasticville cities in a box were the top of the line. But, for today's collectibles market that no longer holds true. Their value is diminished simply because the shelf space needed to display each box is enormous. The centerpiece of today's collector is likely an item packed in a bagged header card, a marbled structure, or a Make 'n Play set. Furthermore, because they are very very large, there might have been a lot of store managers in the 1950's who took them off their point of sale tables too early. From there the sets were likely moved to understock or clearance. Anyway, Bachmann's esteem for these sets held steady. They were instrumental in their overall sales strategy, thus cities in a box continued to be cataloged throughout the era of boxed sets. They fit right in with "the town that grows and grows". This chapter will cover the letter era.

Master Unit (MU-1), cataloged in 1953, was the premier example of this long standing category of boxed sets. This set included the following core structures: Suburban Station with it's platform extension, a yellow Cape Cod house with white roof, and a firehouse, all 1950; a white Bermuda ranch house with blue roof, 1951; and a Parish church with felt type window cards and affixed paper door, 1953. The MU-1 was accessorized with 18 barnyard animals, 16 sections of platform fence and gate, and 12 yellow road signs, all 1952; a complement of the ON-5 outdoor necessities without it's mounting card, 1951; plus two black base crossing gates with opaque white arms (not milk white), four solid brown phone poles with diagonal braces, two additional street lights, two spruce trees, one Maple tree, and two billboards of opposite colors with monochromatic ads, all attributed to 1950.



The set was packaged in a yellow typical letter era box measuring 22 1/2 x 19 x 2 1/8 inches. The contents were divided by eleven trays with these following measurements: 6 x 11 1/4 inches; 6 x 3 inches; 7 1/4 x 7 inches; 7 1/4 x 5 1/4 inches; 5 5/8 x 10 inches; 5 5/8 x 8 inches; 5 5/8 x 3 5/8 inches; & twin trays at 7 1/2 x 3 inches plus twin trays at 7 1/4 x 4 3/4 inches. An 8 1/2 x 10 3/4 printed sheet which depicted two suggested train layout arrangements was laid over the dividers. This is the only boxed set ever to have contained this feature, but coincidentally that sheet may have influenced

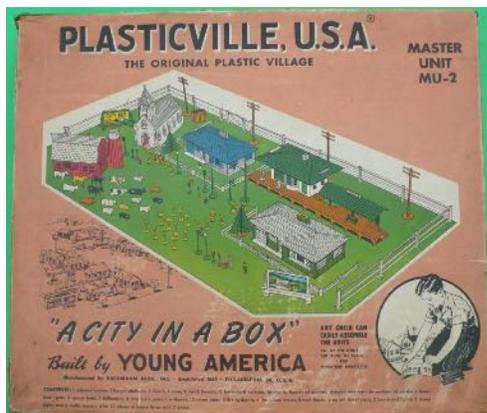


the box art of the MU-2 of 1954. However large this box was it still retained the typical letter era box top format. The box side panels depicted the customary repeating band of silhouettes of the kits which had been available in (or before) 1950. "PATENT APPLIED FOR" appeared at the panel's lower corner. The set name and designation appeared at the extreme top right hand corner of the box top. The herald "PLASTICVILLE U. S. A." was slightly shifted to the left, along with the primary slogan "THE TOWN THAT GROWS AND GROWS". "Reg. U. S. Pat. Off." was worked in under the herald. The letter boxed artist's rendering of contents was superimposed over a corner forward sketch of the original neighborhood which had been used for the Community Unit's main box art. A fire station, a gas station, a train station and a barn were filled in to that original scene. Because of the sheer size of this box, more of this sketch was exposed than in any other typical letter era set box. Centered under the artists rendering was the definitive characterization of this set: "A CITY IN A BOX" was boldly printed in a brush stroke style font. The secondary slogans "ANY CHILD CAN EASILY ASSEMBLE THESE UNITS" and "ALL OF THESE UNITS ARE BUILT TO SCALE FOR MINIATURE RAILROADS" were off set and to the lower right of the artist's rendering. The primary slogan "Built by Young America" was offset to the left. The ever present boy in a circle assembling a Cape Cod house was niched near the lower right hand corner. The line item list of contents was printed in standard typewriter font at the lowest edge of the box, and at the extreme corner and in bold print was a selling feature "RETAIL VALUE \$10.65". No other boxed sets shared that feature. The artist's rendering of contents was a tightly grouped arrangement set on a medium green lawn under a washed out sky. The picture represented an accurate scene. The next master unit would have remarkable differences from that typical letter era boxed set format.

Master Unit (MU-2), cataloged in 1954, consisted of the following core structures: Suburban Station with it's platform extension and a red roof barn, both introduced in 1950; two Bermuda ranch houses, one dark green with white roof & one salmon with gray roof & red doors, 1951; and a Parish church, 1953. This barn was the newly introduced chromed trim variation, but even though the little country church had a chrome cross for years, the

Parish church cross was not by chance decorated with chrome. The MU-2 was accessorized with 16 citizens with their paint palette and brush, 1953; 18 barnyard animals, the full unit of street implements with their 12 yellow road signs, 16 sections of platform fence and gate, all 1952; plus two units of house fence (opaque white not the HO scale milk white), 4 solid brown phone poles with diagonal braces, a red with white trim out-house, and two billboards of opposite colors with monochromatic, or color, or maybe mixed ads, all attributed to 1950.

Master Unit (MU-2) was packaged in a shell-pink box, with the same overall measurements as the MU-1. The dividing trays were reduced to ten with the following measurements: 12 x 6



inches; 5 1/2 x 3 3/4 inches; 5 1/2 x 8 inches; 7 1/4 x 7 inches; 7 1/4 x 4 7/8 inches; 7 3/4 x 4 5/8 inches; & twin trays at 10 x 5 1/2 inches, plus twin trays at 7 3/4 x 2 3/4 inches. The box top art was a departure from the typical format. The artist's rendering of contents was a reverse corner forward tabletop style illustration. It's sheer size covered up almost all of the original neighborhood sketch. It's perspective was an overhead view of the set's contents as if it was a picture of a store display. The surrounding white border was raised in the back to simulate a back board of a store shelf. All of the preceding illustrations in the previous boxed sets had been done as a lawn to a horizon under a sky. This illustration had no sky. The picture shows one billboard card as monochromatic and the other one as color. Because of this clue the author adopts the idea that color ads likely were first made in 1954. The picture omitted five sections of fence, otherwise the contents were represented fairly. Because of the amount of surface space taken up by this picture, the slogans, the boy in a circle and the list of contents were all squeezed down to the lower margin of the box top.

Other changes in format, also, were made to the graphics. The herald "PLASTICVILLE U. S. A." was shifted to the extreme top left hand corner of the box and it vaunted the circle R (protected trademark). An indication of a trade war was discussed in previous chapters. The nemesis was MARX. MARX had been trying to add their own distinctiveness to the plastic village. They might have contended that Bachmann was it's trade name and that Plasticville was a generic typification. Unlimited Plastics (Littletown) and The Skyline Manufacturing Company were also adversarial, especially over the ownership of a Parish church with slide together buttresses. In retort Bachmann also replaced the primary slogan on this box top and on other 1954 boxed sets with "THE ORIGINAL PLASTIC VILLAGE". Prior to this set,

the long side box edge panels had "patent applied for", but the MU-2 and other sets of 1954 had "Patented June 17, 1952 No. 2,600,000.", instead.



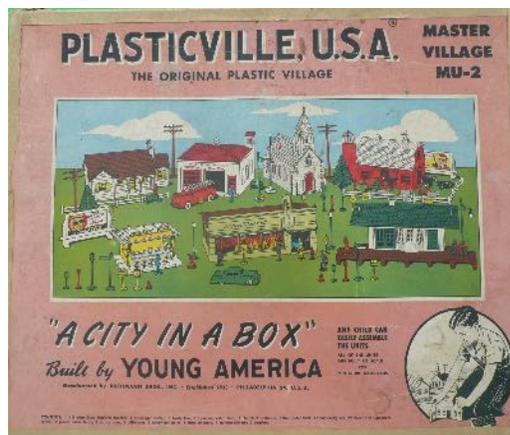
Master Village (MU-2), cataloged in 1955, was one of the sets which were renamed for their play value rather than what was in the box. The term "unit" would no longer be used. Many significant developments happened in 1955 to 1956. This set truly had more play value because it was more municipal in scope than the two previous cities in a box. Although Plasticville stores had already been available for several years, this city in a box was the first to include one. Furthermore, the fire station was reincorporated into this set and was enhanced with a fire engine. This set coexisted with the perfectly characterized Public Buildings (PB-8) and Plasticville Shopping center (SP-8).

Master Village (MU-2) consisted of the following core structures: Suburban Station without an extended platform, a red roof barn with chrome trim, and a fire station, all 1950; a black letter supermarket and a Parish church (which may have thinner window cards and a paper door not yet attached), both 1953; a salmon wall frosty bar with white roof and chrome counter, and a white New England ranch house with gray roof and blue trim, both 1954. The set was accessorized with two park benches, three solid brown phone poles with diagonal braces, two spruce trees, 12 pieces of opaque white (not milk white) house fence, and two opposite color billboards with color ads, year of color ads undetermined (but likely 1954), all attributed to 1950; with the full unit of street implements plus it's 12 yellow road signs, and only 8 barnyard animals, both 1952; and new to 1955 was an automobile and a dark red ladder truck.

The 1955 sets were the exclusive source of the 16 citizens molded in color. The Master Village (MU-2) always had these citizens in the following colors only: red, dark brown, tan, light gray, dark gray, hunter green and blue. The pink-flesh color citizens were not used in 1955 boxed sets. No painting implements or instructions were provided with citizens molded in color. The reader might comprehend just how difficult it must have been to pack the 16 citizens molded in color. First the 16 citizens were cast on two sprues each holding 8 of the characters. Each separate sprue was made of course into one of the seven selected colors. So, lay out in your imagination 7 X 2 equals 14 sprues just to get started. There are 16 different characters to break off. 16 X 14 equals 224 total sprues if you are to be perfect in packing your assortments. If you miss one you will begin to not come out even! This will likely escalate. Through the day you start to get angry. The boss

said, "Pack 16 different figures into each Citizens (PF-4) unit by using all the colors, but pack each color no more than for two or three different figures." And look, you've got 224 sprues out on your bench. Well, there goes the ballgame! So it's very understandable that the troublesome citizens molded in color were diverted to the boxed sets. Merchants expected consistency in the products they buy and sell. Stores might have returned an unacceptable rate of PF-4s if they were not right. But, with boxed sets the distributor could say, "They are not defective, that's just the way they come." Although it may be true that a very few early PF-4s were perfectly assorted and made it through quality control, that situation couldn't have ever lasted; it's just not realistic. Without a doubt it is no wonder that the citizens molded in color only lasted for one year. There are isolated occurrences of figures molded in several more colors and shades of colors which include, but not limited to, church scenes, Make 'n Play sets and Storytown U.S.A. The last known production of the citizens were not shiny and were a bit lighter in hue. They also started showing holes in the belly. Greenburg Train and Dollhouse Shows sold many thousands of those figures. No dull surface citizens were ever used in any Plasticville boxed set or Lionel 900 series set.

Master Village (MU2) was packaged in a slightly smaller peach color box which measured 21 x 17 x 2 1/2 inches. That is a significant 160 cubic inches smaller than the MU-2 box of 1954. The contents were divided by 7 large trays with the following measurements: 6 1/2 x 12 inches; 6 1/2 x 4 3/4 inches; & twin trays at 6 1/2 x 7 1/2 inches; plus triple trays at 9 5/8 x 4 1/2 inches each. The box top graphics and side panels remained just like the MU-2 of 1954,



however the artist's rendering of contents returned to the prevailing natural aspect style featuring a horizon and sky. The letter boxed rendering was set on a forest green lawn under a blue sky with somewhat splotchy clouds. The use of shadows was very limited. The author recommends against using box top pictures to identify contents; however, in this special circumstance the only ascertainable way to tell which of the 8 barnyard animals were included is to look at the picture. Notwithstanding the recommendation, the picture was shown to be unreliable. A flagpole with the American Flag was standing at the firehouse. No American Flag was actually included in the set box nor was itemized in the line listing of contents at the extreme lower border of the set box. The supermarket was incorrectly colored gray.

There was no "Win a Trip to Disneyland" sticker on the author's boxed set. The forms in other 1955 sets state, "Contest closes midnight Jan. 14, 1956". This indicates one of two circumstances. The set was packed and shipped before the contest started, or the Master Villages were still being distributed after the contest was over. It is likely that stickers were placed on boxes by following a "just in time" policy. 1956 was a pivotal year, and the most difficult year to analyze. Many unusual things happened during the transition from the letter era to the number era. Holdovers of 1955 sets still being shipped in 1956 would have been likely. Christmas season was very important to Bachmann's selling strategy. If the reader finds any of the 1955 sets without a Disneyland sticker, that's probably alright.

Bachmann never again produced anything as grand as the cities in a box. It was creative selling at it's best, and in their day nothing else compared. That market strategy fostered an increase of sales volume, it met a perceived demand from the act of family gifting, especially at Christmas, it facilitated "the town that grows and grows", and they were eye catchers at the point of sale. They served as an in store giant advertisement in and of themselves, thus helping to sell all the other small Plasticville kits around them. The following kits are recommended to supplement the cities in a box, because each of them were never included in any Plasticville boxed set: the hospital, the factory, Colonial church, corner store, TV station, apartment house, house under construction, a mobile home, the coal tower, a greenhouse, roadside farmer's market, cattle pen, the covered bridge, and picket fence.



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FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

Miscellaneous Odds, Ends and Questions

RON SCHLICHT #02-109



The National Enquirer has always used the byline “Inquiring Minds Want to Know” to substantiate their existence. There are many mysteries regarding plastic toys, primarily structures, addressed in *The Villager*. Some things are still a

anyone ever encountered this phenomenon? Is this rare or commonplace, an inquiring mind wants to know? If it is one of a kind and can put one of my great grand children through college, get in touch with me.



matter of question. I have always maintained that I am not a collector. Then visitors to my home layout point out a few things that may dispute that argument. Many at my age, were introduced to Plasticville by receiving a suburban station and platform for their train set. This was usually followed with a Cape Cod house, mostly the Red or Green trimmed version. Some were lucky to get the HU-6 set with more colors. Many like to hang on to the past, myself included, for these are a few of my favorite things. Needless to say most of us did not keep the original boxes. I started buying some of the subsequently produced Cape Cod colors. This inquiring mind wants to know how many Peach and Brown Cape Cods were actually manufactured. Why, because I want one, but do not wish to pay a fortune for it (No box required. Glued would even be acceptable as long as it wasn't done by a five year old).

Bachmann for whatever reason (probably to use up an excess of molding material) produced figures in colors other than flesh. I also have a number of those. Did they make total sets of them or just include them in some boxed units? Does anyone actually have a full set in one of the colors? An inquiring mind wants to know? (See Vol. 15 No. 2 for an article on this).

Littletown made some rubber figures that eventually were added to the Plasticville line in hard plastic. They were made in Pink and Blue, why Blue? I thought that at one time I saw a brown (bronze) color. Is that my imagination? Why did Bachmann chose not reproduce all of the figures and add them to their line? I wonder how many versions of figures Littletown produced and in how many colors, an inquiring mind wants to know? Among the figures that I have is the young girl leaning forward with her hands at her knees. What makes her somewhat unique is that through some molding mishap she has TWO faces. One is normal and one is on top of her head. Has



I guess I just can't get enough of those Marx Cream Colored Rubber People. Just how many versions did they make?



Figuratively speaking is one of my passions; there are over 3,680 figures on my layout. These represent various manufacturers, from Plasticville, K-Line, Preiser, Merton, Artista, Marx, Littletown, Model Power, Woodland Scenic's etc. etc. Many of the figures are from manufacturers unknown, about a dozen of the suppliers, are known. Many were given to me as gifts and some were scavenged out of scrap boxes at hobby shops. The cost has ranged from free, two for a nickel, to over \$8.00 each. The scale of the people varies somewhat, ranging from true S scale being 1/64th to 1/43rd scale which is closer to O scale. Some HO figures have been used as children. Approximately 10% of the figures were given to me by friends, because they know of my interest in figurines. The amount of time spent modifying, painting and

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placing the “little people” represents “more time”, than has been spent on the rest of the entire layout including the drywall, lighting and suspended ceiling. From interchanging torsos, decapitations, the trading of external limbs, bending, twisting, filing and carving, anything to make identical figurines look considerably different, I’ve spent up to five nights creating one person. When people ask my wife what I do for a living, I’ve told her to tell them that I’m a plastic surgeon and part-time hair dresser untrue, but it sounds impressive. The placing of a completed figure may take up to a half hour or more. I look at them from every angle possible and sometimes only a 1/8-inch movement, in one direction or another, will make the difference in the final, “satisfactory” placement.



You might say I’m overly picky. I’ve purchased figures knowing at the time of purchase, where they were going to be placed on the layout, to within one half inch of their final placement. I’ve also had some figures for years, before they found a home on the

layout. Some of the figures on the layout actually have names, for one reason or another. There are also a number of celebrity figures. There are a few small dioramas built inside some of the structures, a couple of which have more of an “adult theme”. Many of the groupings tell a story in one-way or another.

In a past PCA newsletter I did an article on backdrop buildings here are some more to bore you with. If you guessed Supergirl and Ironman, you would be right. The Good Luck Service Center may have its shortcomings when it comes to workmanship.

However when it comes to personnel, there appears to be no shortage of help. They check everything but your glove compartment.



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Did You Know? Recently I received a question about which issue a specific article appeared in. While I am happy to help, there is also a self-help option. On the PCA website hover over the ‘Newsletter’ tab then pick ‘Article Index’. You can search this document by author or title. Use ‘Ctrl + F’ on Windows or ‘⌘ + F’ on a Mac.

K-LINE KRONICLES

No. K-4011 Factory

ED BERG #02-123



We've essentially been following K-Line's re-issue of Marxville plastic buildings and taking note of how the newer offerings compared with the originals. K-Lineville gradually evolved from Marx's bright, gaudy primary colored plastic toys to something a tad more realistic. Now to be sure, this wasn't always the case because after all K-Line was still in the toy business and marketing to a younger audience



was still important but K-Line came at a time when the 3-rail O-gauge industry was changing. The pendulum is always in motion and it was swinging away from toys and heading towards scale. Everyone wanted more realism in their layouts, 'hi-rail' was the buzzword of the day, and the old fashioned toy train layout was beginning to be looked at disparagingly. In that light K-Line's factory came out in a two-tone tan and brown edifice in a rather muted plastic, quite unlike the earlier bright red and yellow versions offered by Marx (although Marx did produce a more somber gray version).

The factory offered by K-Line was essentially the same in every respect to Marx's with the exception of the sign on the front wall. Marx had an injection molded sign reading "MARXVILLE TOYS" which couldn't be changed or swapped using another name unless a whole different injection molded piece was designed and tooled. K-Line utilized an injection molded sign board upon which peel-&stick appliqué's could be affixed, thus allowing the name to be changed with the easy addition of a more cost effective (aka *cheap*) sticker. The basic factory which we're covering today had an appliqué reading "K-LINEVILLE TOYS". The figures and accessories which came with the factory were mostly unchanged from the original Marx offerings.

ACCESSORIES

- Platform scale
- Forklift
- Drill press
- 2 Pallet loads
- 2-wheel hand truck
- Dolly w/crates



FIGURES

- Man w/outstretched hand
- Man w/clipboard and pen
- Service attendant hammering
- Man pushing separate hand truck (listed above)
- Attendant pushing broom



The attendant pushing the broom was not originally included in the Marx Factory set replacing the "Worker in hardhat, holding tool over right shoulder" as found in the original Marx set. While the photo on the K-Line box clearly shows which figures were included, the artwork on the Marx box left open the possibility for any set of figures to be included.

Location of K-Line logo: None. No logo is present other than the use of "K-LINEVILLE" on the factory sign board.

Enjoy!

Ed "ICE" Berg, Las Vegas, NV



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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	1618 TV Station w/RARE TV decal \$95
1988 Factory Scenic Classic \$30	SC-4 School w/RARE RED vane \$45
LCCA set Air Admin and Hangar \$39 mint	

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, 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
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,
Jeep, Tractor, Plow, Harrow \$4 ea or 4/\$12,
Silver Flagpole with DECAL flag \$2.50 each or 3/\$6

PLASTIC VILLAGE GAZETTE – #1- \$3.00, #'s 5 or 6 - \$2 ea.

PLASTICVILLE PARTS - \$2 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,
SHRUB (red, yellow, blue), OAR RED OR YELLOW, CLOTHESLINE (red, yellow, green), CASTLE
FLAG OR CHAIN (red, yellow, blue, white)
POST OFFICE FLAG \$6

LITTLETOWN, BOXED, COMPLETE #303 Street Lights, \$25; #304 fence \$15

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

KING PLASTICVILLE ERTL TRACTOR TRAILER WITH BANK - \$12

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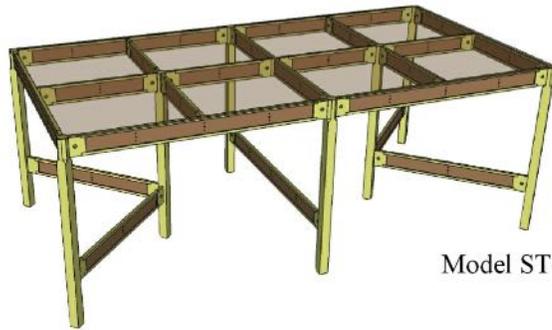


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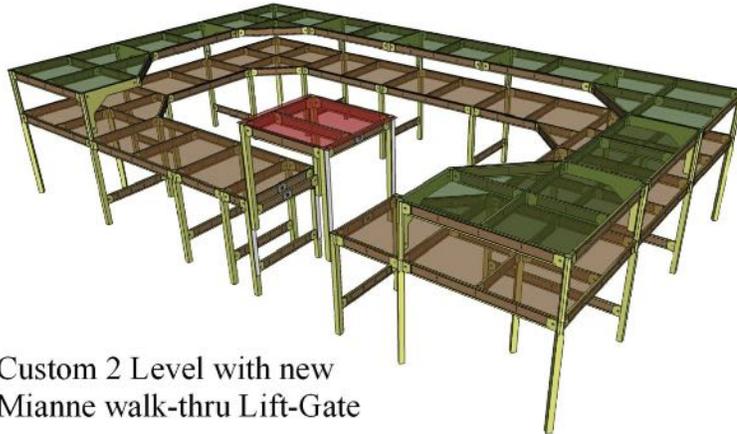
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WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

In my article about K-Line Line Box Type 7 published in Volume 15, No. 3 (August 2016) I stated that there had apparently been some problems with the initial run of boxes for the K-4221 Newspaper and K-4223 Pharmacy as there was correction tape placed over the item description but I did not want to sacrifice the packaging to determine what the problem was. In the quest to "complete the record" I was able to purchase another shrink-wrapped copy of K-4221 Newspaper. The box was in poor enough condition to allow me peel back the "DAILY WHISTLE Newspaper" sticker to find the box read "Pharmacy". So half of the mystery has been solved. Now to find another K-4223 Pharmacy box with the tape to find what lies beneath it!

#11-714 Don Huovinen

PCA,,,, still the greatest,,,, I look forward to every issue.

#01-55 Jim Steed

Because of the newsletter! I just picked up another Hangar (airplane).

#13-818 Rich Kotowski

Have Plasticville telephone poles ever been produced with only one crossbar? I purchased two at a recent train show that appear to be original with no evidence that they are regular poles that have been modified. Both are identical in size and slightly shorter than a regular pole. I would be interested if any other members have seen these poles. Thank you.

#12-777 Louis Visi

Are you certain that they are Plasticville? Do they have the BB logo on the underside of the base? If there is a logo then maybe they are HO. The base of an O/S pole is approximately 1 3/16 inches. The base on an HO pole would probably be smaller.

To the best of my knowledge all Plasticville as well as Littletown telephone poles have been produced with two crossbars. Early Plasticville poles have diagonal braces but were removed with later production. Littletown pieces are a bit shorter and have the pegs used by a lineman for climbing. Both the Plasticville and Littletown poles have

tapers at the tops of the poles. The taper at the top of the pole is needed for easy extraction from the injection mold. -John

At this time I would like to **THANK YOU AND THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** for their time, energy and commitment in making the PCA an awesome organization!!! Thanks again.

#08-516 Tom Gaskell

... an idea I had, it would be fantastic if somehow new window inserts could be printed displaying P'ville items - probably not by Bachman but maybe the club itself could find a way to print them.

#08-528 Chuck Neuman

A major thank you for your fine efforts in producing the one club publication I read immediately upon arrival. Your practice of putting color photos on the cover adds a lot of visual appeal to our very colorful hobby of collecting plastic villages.

#07-498 Gary Weickart

Matt, as a PCA member, in long standing, it is my belief that you, the PCA Editor, acting for and on the behalf of the Membership. You need NOT take so long to answer a members request / e-mail. Note this last request/Email to you 2 ½ months for you to respond. I do not think that is right. (Frankly, after this long, I had forgotten about it). You should respond within a reasonable amount of time. Your duty to the Members is SERVICE.

#01-55 Jim Steed

Unfortunately other professional commitments delayed my responses to several e-mails between the February issue and May issue. I hope to have more time available in the future. I am grateful to all members that submitted content for inclusion in the newsletter. -Matt

Does the PCA have a program to honor long term members? Maybe a certificate of membership for 15 or 20 years?

#09-578 Jeffrey Wayne Gardner

WOOLWORTH'S AD FOLLOW UP

GARY WEICKART # 07-498

I have an answer to the query of member Tony Santay regarding the source and year of the colorful full page Woolworth's Plasticville advertisement pictured on page 19 of the November 2016 issue of *The Villager*. I have the same ad in my own collection which I clipped from the November 1951 issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*. I don't know if it appeared in any other publications but it is curious that Woolworth's and/or Plasticville targeted an audience comprised mostly of women in this early Plasticville advertising effort.

Not easily visible in the Villager photo are the charming smaller illustrations to the left side of the original ad. Of the 4 tiny

vignettes pictured, only one shows using Plasticville as toy train accessories. The remaining three suggest using Plasticville as "outdoor summer fun" toys, "unusual mantel decoration", and of course "attractive decoration under the Christmas tree".

I hope someone finds this helpful as it is rare to find Plasticville advertised in high circulation mass media magazines. How I loved those little time capsules of the times like *Life*, *Look*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Better Homes and Gardens* etc. that were in most homes of the fifties. Incidentally, that Woolworth's ad is as old as I am as its publication date of November 1951 is the month and year I was born.

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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

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

Picket Fence

Playground Equipment

Police Station

Post Office

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

ST-1 Street Accessories - specify piece

needed

Station Platform

Suburban Station

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 ***

Miscellaneous window inserts - specify exact item needed

Barn

Cape Cod House

Cathedral

Cattle Pen

Coaling Station - specify part by letter

Contemporary House

Drive-In Bank

Factory

Fire House

Freight Station

Gas Station

Hardware Pharmacy

House Under Construction

Large Supermarket

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

Gas Station

General Store

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.



Last Call Parts

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.



Loading Platform
 Railroad Station
 Ranch House
 School House
 Southern Colonial House
Telegraph Pole
 *** MARX ***
Barn
 Church
 Colonial House
 Fire House
 Gas Station
General Store
L-shaped Ranch House
 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
Church

Ranch House
 Two Story House

*** MISCELLANEOUS ***

Lionel billboard inserts - specify design
 Lionel RR & Street signs (white) - specify text

Frosted Flakes Billboard - frames only

*** 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
 HO-59 HO Ranch House
 2402 HO Switch Tower
 SC-4 School House
 LM-3 Freight Station Kit
 RA-5 Railroad Accessories - no insert
 PF-4 Plastic People
 RD-8 Passenger Station
 CS-5 5 and 10 Cent Store
 1613 Supermarket
 RH-1 Ranch House (white/green color stamp)
 FH-1 Firehouse - lid only
 1951 Signal Bridge & Switch Tower
 45614 Town Hall
 45606 Frosty Bar
 45982 log Cabin & Rustic Fence
 45979 Coaling Tower
 K-4120 K-Line Ranch House
 K-4150 K-Line L-Shaped Ranch House
 1932 Barn assembly instructions

First Call Parts

Due to a large donation of parts that have yet to be sorted there has been no update to the list below. Please do not request parts if you asked for them last quarter and they were not available.



Become involved! Take a look at volunteer opportunities on page 7 of this issue.





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 or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.

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PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

Guide to North American Steam Locomotives, revised edition, compiled by Georg H Drury, 335 pages, softcover, 8 1/4 x 10 3/4, \$24.99. Published by Trains Books, a division of Kalmbach Books. Copious black and white photos throughout.

This edition of the book was initially published in 2015. I would be remiss if I did not mention that Mr Drury passed away in 2013, this fact is noted by a short article on the Contents page of this book.

This book is amazing for all of the information it contains! I do not believe that the information in it can be found in any other single volume. There is the requisite Forward written by Jim Wrinn, Editor of *Trains* magazine, followed by an introduction. From there on it is all excellent information.

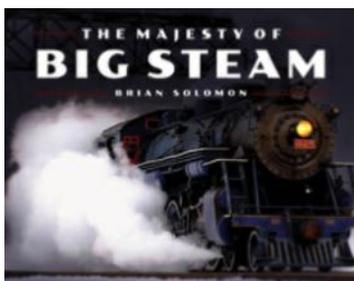
Do you want to know how a steam locomotive works? The first chapter of the book, 16 pages, not only provides you with the basic process but also explains such things as the different valve gear types, feedwater heating, and how superheating work, just to name a few of the subjects discussed.

Can you name all of the Whyte locomotive classifications? Chapter two contains a chart of 29 different classifications/wheel arrangements. The chart also notes the most common name attributed to each wheel arrangement. Every arrangement in the chart also receives a lengthy discourse that includes at its conclusion such facts as the name used by other railroads, the actual total built, the railroad with the greatest number, and more. Talk about a treasure trove of railroad trivia! I used one of the facts on my railroad buddy. He did not believe me and did a Google search to verify the fact.

The third chapter is a mere four pages relating the impact of the United States Railway Administration (USRA) on the develop-

The Majesty of Big Steam, Brian Solomon, 176 pages, hardcover, 11 1/2 x 8 3/4, \$30. Published by Voyageur Press. Color and black & white photos with captions throughout.

The title of this book would make one tend to think that it was going to be about the Big Boy, the Allegheny, and the Yellowstone locomotives. The author quickly dispels that idea in his Introduction. He states that, "They are only a part of the story of big steam." He further states that the real story of big steam "lies



with the many machines that seemed huge to the ordinary person..."

This offering by Mr. Solomon includes the usual acknowledgements, and introduction, and five chapters related to specific driver wheel configurations. There is also a unique

ment of more standardized locomotives. There is a chart in this chapter that lists the various USRA locomotives and their various attributes.

How many major locomotive builders were there in the United States and Canada at the turn of the century? Chapter four seems to cover the majority if not all of them.

The meat, and also the minutia, of this book is in chapter five. Every major North American, Canadian, and Mexican railroad is represented in this chapter with a chart of all locomotives owned by them since 1900. Each railroad is a sub-chapter containing a brief history, followed by a discussion of freight locomotives and passenger locomotives. Switchers are also included where applicable. I wish that the charts also contained information on the location of any preserved units.

Interspersed throughout the book are sidebars for significant figures in locomotive engineering advancements, historical societies, recommended reading, and publications in which rosters were published.

As I stated at the beginning of this review, "This book is amazing for all of the information it contains". I do not feel you can go wrong adding this book to your library.

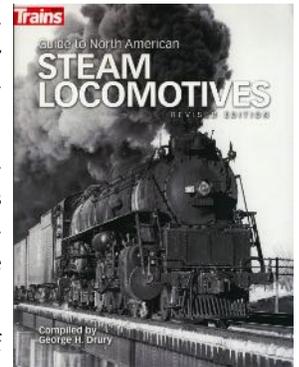
Guide to North American Steam Locomotives is available from Kalmbach books at their website, kalmbachhobbystore.com. It is currently listed at \$18.74, a 25% discount off the cover price. I found it on Barnes and Noble's website at \$20.57 and on Amazon for the same price.

captions chapter - I will get to that chapter later - and a bibliography and index.

The first chapter discusses how the railroads advanced from the venerable 4-4-0 American locomotive to the more modern steam locomotives of the 20's & 30's and on. It also discusses how the advent of larger and more powerful locomotives reduced the number of units needed by the railroads.

Chapter two is dedicated to the Pacific and Hudson locomotives or the six-coupled locomotives. As with all of the author's books I pick up little trivia tidbits. This chapter provided one that really surprised me. The author states, "...fewer than 500 4-6-4s were built in North America as compared to an estimated 6,000 4-6-2s". The 4-6-4 was the Hudson and the 4-6-2 was the Pacific. There are other tidbits in this chapter that I will leave for you to discover.

Chapter three refers to the eight-coupled engines as "the backbone of the twentieth-century railroads". The engines in this



chapter include the Berkshire, the Mikado, the Mountain, and the Northern as well as the UP Daylight. Another bit of trivia for you: approximately 759 Berkshires were produced!

The fourth chapter captures the history of the ten-coupled locomotives. These include decapods, the Overland, and the Texas type locomotives.

Titans of the Rails is the title of the fifth and final chapter in the book. The author introduces the chapter with a historical background on the invention of the articulated compound Mallet locomotive. He continues with a historical perspective on the introduction of locomotives of this design into the U.S. railroads. Look for more locomotive trivia in this chapter.

I mentioned that the Captions sections was a unique "chapter" in this book. Although it is not noted as a chapter, starting on page

150 through 172 are the same photos as in the various chapters but with completely different captions. It is almost like getting a 23 page picture book as a bonus.

I have always enjoyed Brian Solomon's books and this one is no exception. I enjoyed reading it and picking up a few more questions for a railroad trivia night.

The Majesty of Big Steam, can be purchased directly from Voyageur Press at their website: www.qbookshop.com. Their website also contains hyperlinks to Barnes & Noble's, Amazon's, and other websites. I found the book listed at both the aforementioned websites at a bit less than the published price of \$30. Barnes & Noble seems to also offer it in NOOK book format.

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Dr Mike's Model-n' Crafter's Glue. A glue is glue. A Super Glue is Super Glue. A cyanoacrylate is cyanoacrylate. Maybe not. I received samples of Dr Mike's Model-n' Crafter's Glue after a discussion with him at the October, 2016 York meet. The discussion at York was about his advertising in *The Villager*. Following some discussion and emails after York we put together a quarter page ad for him. It is on page 14 of this edition.

I received two different containers of glue from Mike as well as a container of Lightning Blast. Lightning Blast is an accelerator for use with the glues in some instances. Vintage Plasticville is of a different plastic composition than that of current production. I had some damaged Plasticville pieces of both early and recent vintage and tried out the glue on some of each. I found that due to this fact different actions had to be taken to glue pieces of both vintage.

My first test was on a broken Suburban Station platform. I used only the glue. It took quite a while for the parts to bond but once so they were there definitely bonded. My next test was on a previously glued Switch Tower with a loose roof. It again took a while for the pieces to bond but they did so ultimately. I also tried the glue with accelerator on the Marx lamp post shown in last edition's The Parts Bin photos after getting impatient with

holding it together when using only glue. It's now glued back together.

The new production piece was different. The Parts Bin had a partial covered bridge that had been glued and ultimately broken in various places. These included splits in the roof and the roof loose from one of the walls. My first test was to use the glue alone and attempt to repair a split in the roof. The glue by itself did not work even after three attempts. I then tried using the accelerator along with the glue. The split joined back together almost instantly. As I had somewhat contaminated that area with my multiple attempts I decided to try to glue the roof back on. This time I held the roof to the wall and allowed a bit of accelerator to run between the two by capillary action. I then did the same thing with the glue. The pieces, again bonded almost instantly. I am not an extremely patient person so my choice of Dr Mike's glue would be the Lightning Bond Kit as it has both the glue that can be used separately if you are a patient person or along with the accelerator for people like me.



Dr Mike's Model-n' Crafter's Glue can be purchased directly from Dr Mike at www.drmikeyglue.com or by phone at 804 798-5225.

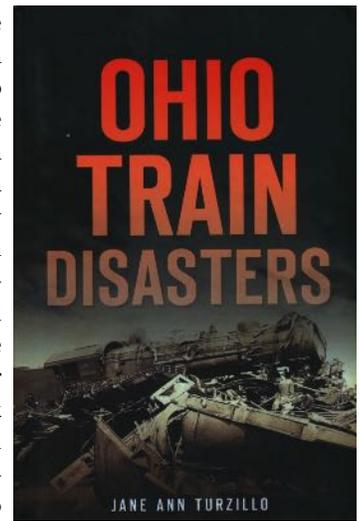
Ohio Train Disasters, Jane Ann Turzillo, 128 pages, soft-bound, 6x9 format, \$19.99. Published by; The History Press. Vintage and modern black & white photos throughout.

We humans seem to have a strong need to know the particulars of disasters whether they be earthquakes, airline crashes, or train crashes. Our desire for information sometimes far surpasses what we really need to know.

This book, by virtue of its title, addresses train disasters in but a small portion of the United States, namely Ohio. It not only describes various train wrecks/disasters but delves into the reasons behind them as well as activities taken after each incident. It gives the reader "everything they need to know" but also gives anyone desiring to perform additional research a good starting point.

There are a total of twelve chapters in the book. Each describes a disaster/wreck in great detail. The details include the unfolding of the actual disaster. In addition the author has provided the reader with what happened to the crews and passengers including describing their injuries and whether they survived or not. There are also brief biographies of some of the people. In some instances she also describes the actions, sometimes heroic, of

passengers who survived the crashes and stepped up, even though they were injured, to assist others in need. All of the chapters/stories are written with such a personal touch that one feels that they know the players rather than just a recitation of the facts. An example: "At first Mrs. Bingham tried to maneuver through the snow but it was no use. Her leg was broken and her back was injured. Burchell picked her up and, with great difficulty, made it through waist deep snow..."



Although the book deals with train disasters/wrecks I enjoyed reading it. The author's style makes for very easy reading.

Ohio Train Disasters is available directly from the History Press at <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com>. It is also available on Amazon in new condition for as little as \$9.99 plus shipping.

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The Villager is looking for new contributors. Contact the editor to find out how to participate and share your knowledge.

THE VILLAGER CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

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.

Ending February 2018

My husband, Edwin Boyer, PCA member #07-460 passed away recently and left me with his huge accumulation of Plasticville and other plastic village pieces. I have single parts, complete glued pieces, complete bagged pieces, complete boxed pieces, and complete large sets. Please let me know what you need. Judy Boyer. Phone 708 598-7926. I am in the Central time zone. Thank you.

Plasticville Dairy Farm set (RU-4). Complete with all items in like-new condition (except for stain on one barn cap). Box has protective clear packaging tape but is otherwise in Very Good condition. Photos available on request. Identical item recently sold on eBay for \$100. Asking \$59 or best offer. John Gottcent, PCA 01-24, 812-426-2989 or jandjgott@gmail.com.

WANTED

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.

Ending November 2017

BEEMAK large upright SUPERMARKET sign. Also small BAKERY sign for marquee or laetters 'E', 'R', 'Y'. Prefer white in color but will accept any color available. I can also use BEEMAK boxes for supermarket and theatre. Call, write, or email. #07-498 Gary Weickart, 185 Maple Street, Islip, NY 11751 Ph. 631-581-5834. gweickart@aol.com

Make 'N' Play, complete boxed sets. Fire Resuce, Jungle Attack, & Farm. #11-682 Matt Harvazinski, 4115 W. Ave. J7, Lancaster CA, 93536. Ph. 518-421-1130 villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

Ending February 2018

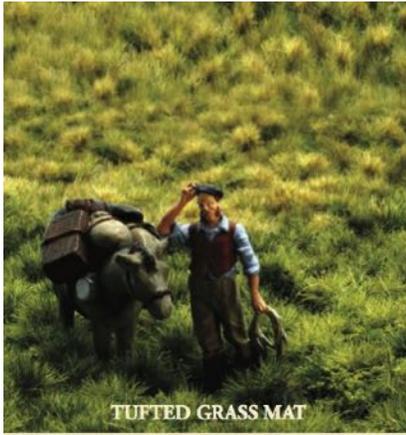
PCA 5th Anniversary House and 10th Anniversary Barn. Fair price paid for each item and shipping & handling. #14-863 Nicholas Alexandroff, 473 Livingston Rd, West Mifflin, PA 15122 Ph. 412-320-5347.

WANTED: Marx Yellow Cabs, circa 1950s. Jim Steed, 01-55. E-mail gayleandjimsteed@gmail.com or 706-745-0629 after 11:00am.

FOR TRADE

none

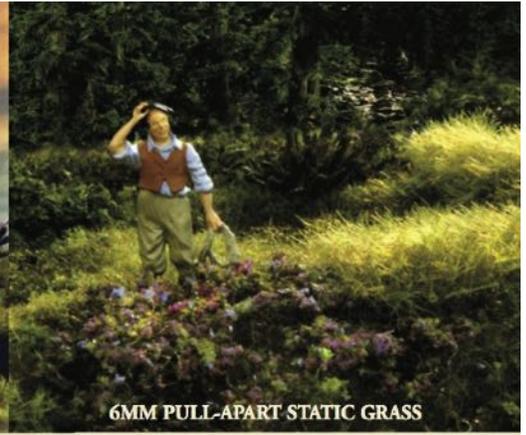




TUFTED GRASS MAT



2MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS



6MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS

SCENESCAPES® LANDSCAPING PRODUCTS

REALISTIC-LOOKING SCENERY HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

Bachmann's latest *ScenesCAPES*® landscaping products let you quickly add distinctive details and natural-looking textures to any scale layout. Professional, realistic-looking scenery has never been easier!



TUFTED GRASS MAT (one 11.75" x 7.5" sheet)
MSRP \$28.95 each



LIGHT GREEN
Item No. 32921



MEDIUM GREEN
Item No. 32922



WESTERN RANGE
Item No. 32924



DRY GRASS
Item No. 32925



2MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS (one 11" x 5.5" expandable sheet)
MSRP \$16.95 each



LIGHT GREEN
Item No. 31011



MEDIUM GREEN
Item No. 31012



DRY GRASS
Item No. 31014



GOLD
Item No. 31015



6MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS (one 11" x 5.5" expandable sheet)
MSRP \$16.95 each



WILD GRASS
(medium green with gold highlights)
Item No. 31001



DARK GREEN
(dark green with subtle gold highlights)
Item No. 31002



ALPINE GREEN
(dark green with subtle gold highlights and blown leaves)
Item No. 31003



6MM TUFTS (100 pieces)
MSRP \$10.95 each



MEDIUM GREEN
Item No. 31031



DARK GREEN
Item No. 31032



TAN
Item No. 31033



YELLOW and RED
Item No. 31034



WHITE and BURGUNDY
Item No. 31035



10MM TUFTS (50 pieces)
MSRP \$12.95 each



LIGHT GREEN
Item No. 31041



MEDIUM GREEN
Item No. 31042



TAN
Item No. 31044



YELLOW and RED
Item No. 31045



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