



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 16

August 2017

Number 3

CALL FOR OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2018-2019 TERM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nominations are now being accepted for the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer for the 2018-2019 term. The Executive Committee has also authorized separate nominations for Secretary and Treasurer.

It is suggested that you contact a person you wish to nominate to obtain their agreement before submitting their name as a nominee. Self-nomination is also acceptable.

It is imperative that members take an active role to ensure that our Association continues for many more years.

Nominations must be emailed or postmarked no later than September 15, 2017. Nominations may be sent by email to president@plasticvilleusa.org or mailed to President, Plasticville Collectors Association, 105 Dietrich Ln, Cresco, PA 18326-8001.

PROTOTYPE FOR THE LARGE GAS STATION POSSIBLY DISCOVERED

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

The accompanying photo is found on page 82 of the book, *One Hundred Years of Gas Stations* which was reviewed in the August, 2015 issue of *The Villager*.

The caption for the photo reads, "For many years we believed this Atlantic station was located in Greenville, SC. It has since been determined that it was located in Philadelphia, PA and served as the prototype for a model railroad structure manufactured by Bachmann Brothers under the Plasticville trademark. This photo was taken at Christmas, 1952."

Being a bit of a skeptic and wanting more information I turned to Bachmann for help. They sent me a couple of photos but none that could absolutely place the station in Philadelphia.

As fate would have it, I called the author for additional information only to find that he was at a petroliana swap meet in Des Moines. He was a mere 20 minutes away from me! I drove to the swap meet and, no, I did not get taken up with petroliana collecting but I did have a good talk with him, especially regarding this particular photo.

He said that he was contacted by a former Bachmann employee, after the book was published, who told him that the station was "just around the corner" from Bachmann's factory. Unfortunately,

ly, he did not remember the name of the person who contacted him.

This person also stated that the sign behind the station in the upper left hand corner of the photo was for a Best Foods grocery store. It was one of a total of 6 stores in the chain and only in the Northeast. The chain later sold out to Food Fair.



(Photo used with permission)

The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

President: Chris Matthy

Vice President: Frank Ross

Webmaster: John L. Niehaus

www.plasticvilleusa.org

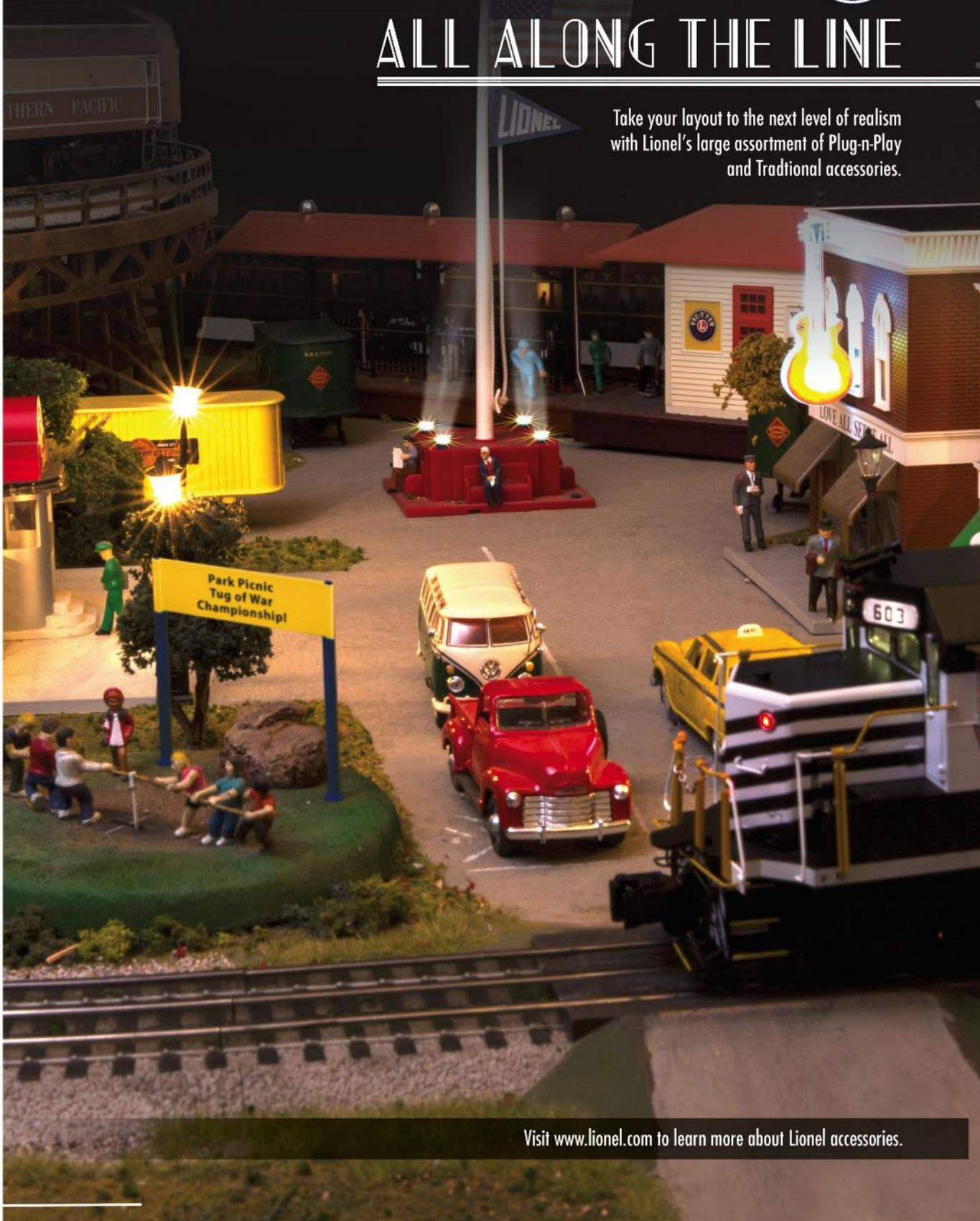
Secretary/Treasurer: John L Niehaus
Newsletter Editor: Matthew Harvazinski

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Ed Koch, the former mayor of New York City, was famous for his phrase “HowamI doin’?” I didn’t know him, so I don’t know how much he took to heart the responses he may have received – but the idea that one would check to see if one is doing one’s job, or doing the right thing, is a common and growing practice in the business world. How many times have you been invited to fill out an on-line survey after a doctor’s visit or store purchase, etc.?

During our recent PCA Executive meeting we had a “HowamI don’?” moment as we talked about membership in general. Our Secretary was about to confirm our 500th active member. That member’s i.d. number will be in the 1020’s (your i.d. # is the year you join plus a consecutive number – John Niehaus is 00-03, I’m 01-73, etc.). In other words, though 1020+ people have joined the PCA, we have not retained more than half of that number. Good news: we have 500 active members. Not so good news: we have lost 520+ members. More people have gone out the back door than stayed.

When people do not renew, someone from the PCA has tried to contact them. John shared that many simply respond that they don’t collect Plasticville anymore, or that they are not interested. Which leads me to wonder: what’s up? Why is it that we have not held the interest of members? Is there something more we should/could be doing?

When we sold the 100 Plasticville pick-up trucks they went like hotcakes, though I don’t know how many people ordered more than one. When we solicited suggestions for a 20th anniversary building, 40 people responded – less than 10% of our membership. When we put out the call that our secretary/treasurer IS retiring after 18 years in the job, we got a trickle of responses. And now we are facing nominations for the Executive positions for the next two years.

The mission of the PCA – in my own words – is to be the “go to” place for information on Plasticville and other plastic villages. We have a website which is still being made better. We have a publication where people are sharing their knowledge (and I have purchased more than one item from advertisers, have you?). We have FREE Plasticville parts. We have a unique relationship with Bachmann that allows us to work on special items with their blessing. We answer John/Jane Q. Public’s inquiries about Plasticville. We do convention workshops. Did I mention we have FREE parts?

So how are we doing? And how could you be a more active supporter of this organization? Let us know – no, really – let us know! Meanwhile, Christmas is just around the corner...

Chris Matthy
PCA President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well here it is in the beginning of summer, and in PA it is already pretty hot and the high humidity is in the air. It gives me a great excuse to get out of the heat and down to my basement to continue to work on my train layout.

I again attended the York train show last April, and continued my quest to try to complete my Plasticville collection of all the color combinations of all of the buildings. There are only a few items I am looking for, and as you can imagine, are getting harder to find every year. I think that a good part of my problem is getting ambitious enough to open all of the boxes of the units that I eventually find to see what color combinations are inside. Years ago when I first started this challenge, it was easier to find what I needed because I really needed so much, and even some of the harder to find buildings in certain colors were available for purchase. There has got to be around twenty different color combinations of the Ranch House, and I can remember finding quite a few of those at one table and thinking I hit a jackpot. There is still a large presence of Plasticville for sale at York, and I did find an original box of the Autumn tree assortment for sale. I declined to buy it because the seller was pretty proud of it and wanted more money for it than I wanted to spend. I did purchase a small supermarket in it’s original box and took it to the Plasticville Collector’s meeting for show and tell after I learned earlier that day that additional window inserts for it are printed on the bottom of the box.

When I wrote my last report, I mentioned the Plasticville Switch Tower with the Cedar Point sign that was offered for sale by

American Flyer that I never knew about. Well, at the last York train show, I drove by a large billboard type sign advertising the Reliance Fire Hall just down the street from the York Fair Grounds which deals with exclusively American Flyer and other S Gauge products. On the sign was a photograph of that Switch Tower with the Cedar Point sign on a American Flyer layout. I had seen this sign before, but never made the connection in my mind that it was an American Flyer type product. I just assumed that the nicely painted building was the result of a talented Plasticville collector. It was one of those “color me stupid” moments.

The executive committee is moving along with plans to release for sale to it’s members a 20th anniversary structure, and are trying to finalize what it will be based on input from our members and information that we need from Bachmann to be able to produce what we request. We will hopefully have all of this resolved by our next newsletter. We are now in the process of soliciting members to nominate someone (with their approval) or yourself for our officer’s positions for the next term of office. The term is for a period of two years, and the current administration will be stepping down on January 1, 2018. I encourage our membership to get involved in this organization because it is a rewarding experience for you, and it allows the club to continue to grow due to new officers bringing different ideas to the table. Past officers support our executive telephone meetings to help with their ideas and provide opinions when asked.

As Lou Palumbo always says, “Keep Searchin’”.

Frank Ross, PCA Vice President

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



TCA Convention Show N Tell

The TCA convention in Pittsburgh, PA and our part in conducting a Show N Tell is over. My most sincere thanks to Anthony Santay and Wesley Kidd for volunteering to assist me at the Show N Tell. We had around 30 attendees. Anthony brought a nice assortment of the various trees and some marbled pieces. Wesley brought some additional marbled pieces as well as what might become the most desirable piece of Plasticville since the red roof Post Office. He displayed a Post Office with a silver-grey roof usually found on the Hardware/Pharmacy. Coincidentally, I also displayed a roof of the same color but that did not have the hole in the upper side of the roof completed but did have the boss on the underside. Check your Hardware/Pharmacies and Post Offices for this Post Office style roof.

2018/2019 Officer nominations are now open

Nominations for the offices of our elected officers are now open. Please give consideration to volunteering for one of the offices. The Executive Committee has also agreed to accept single nominations for both the Secretary and Treasurer as well as for the combined office.

We could still use some additional volunteers

The PCA still needs some new members to take over from we "old dogs". 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 20 of this issue. We have had only two inquiries 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 - is published on the front page of this newsletter. Please give thoughtful consideration regarding running for one of 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.

Huge Parts Bin donation

I received an extremely large donation of Plasticville pieces for use in The Parts Bin program. It was way more than I expected when approached about accepting it. I am about three quarters of the way through sorting it but it definitely takes time. Please bear with me until I can get the remainder sorted and stored.

Uncatalogued HO piece

I generally peruse the annual catalog from Bachmann from cover to cover. I am glad that I did it this year. There is a special run HO building that is included only in the #00736 The General set. It is called the Quartermaster & Telegraph Office. The building is the same as the #45161 Marshal's Office and Restaurant that was released a few years back. The new building is the same color but with different labels. Bachmann has informed me that this building will be exclusive to the train set and will not have an individual stock number assigned. The only way to obtain it will be by purchasing the train set or hopefully finding it out of a broken set.

Late mailing of the May newsletter

My apologies for the late sending of the May issue of *The Villager*. Our editor had professional commitments in late April and early May. I had surgery May 4 and was on limited duty both by the doctor and my family. I do hope though that all of you enjoyed the issue.

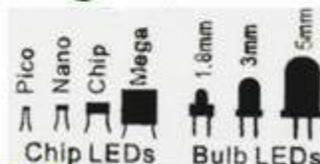
John L Niehaus
Secretary/Treasurer

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EDITOR'S COLUMN



I will admit that this summer trains and Plasticville have not been on my mind. Usually I try to keep an eye on e-Bay over the summer to hunt for those missing pieces but it seems like I just haven't found the time this year. Hopefully I will find more time in the second half of summer.

We are in need of new contributors, please see my short article on page 7 detailing some of our current needs. Without new input from members the Newsletter will continue to shrink in size. Please consider volunteering, I know many of you are very knowledgeable!

In addition to our regular contributors this issue has a very well written and informative article by Chadwick Susan on some history of an early pioneer in the plastic industry.

I would also still like to hear more comments from members, I do receive some e-mails regularly for the same small group of members. It is great to get their feedback, but we have many more members, so please consider sending in some feedback. Your feedback gets published in the *What Members are Saying* section (see page 23).

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

JULY 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The July, 2017 Executive Committee meeting was called to order on July 6, 2017 at 7:10 PM, Eastern time, by President Chris Matthy. Those in attendance were President Chris Matthy, Vice President Frank Ross, Immediate Past President Doug Gilliatt, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus. Absent was founder, Joe Kutza.

Old Business

20th anniversary piece

Secretary Niehaus provided the Committee with a list of all buildings suggested by the membership. It was requested that he contact Bachmann regarding the prospect of purchasing a quantity of one of the top three suggested buildings.

Photos on the website

It was determined that more review of the photos provided by Thomas Fritsch is needed. Secretary Niehaus will perform that review at his earliest convenience.

Secretary Niehaus reported that a photo agreement form has been created. He also reported that signed, paper, copies will be stored with the other PCA documents.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to add the unsigned photo agreement document to the website in an unsecured section.

Secretary Niehaus reported that a new volunteer has come forward to provide other than Plasticville photos. A signed agreement is in the PCA archive for this member.

Creating additional Association positions

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has been contacted by two different parties regarding the membership renewal and retention positions. He stated that he has had not been contacted by anyone regarding any of the other positions.

Expense for each membership level

Due to the complexity of determining the total annual expenses for each membership level and his recent recovery from surgery the Secretary has deferred the calculations to the October Executive Committee meeting.

New Business

Membership number in newsletter

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to include the membership number assigned to each proposed and new member in that article in the newsletter.

Large donation to The Parts Bin program

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has been slow to respond to Parts Bin requests due to limitations because of his surgery. He also noted that he received a very large donation, multiple boxes, of Plasticville the he is still sorting. He hopes to have all of the pending requests filled and the majority of the material in the remaining boxes sorted and filed before the November newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus, Secretary/Treasurer

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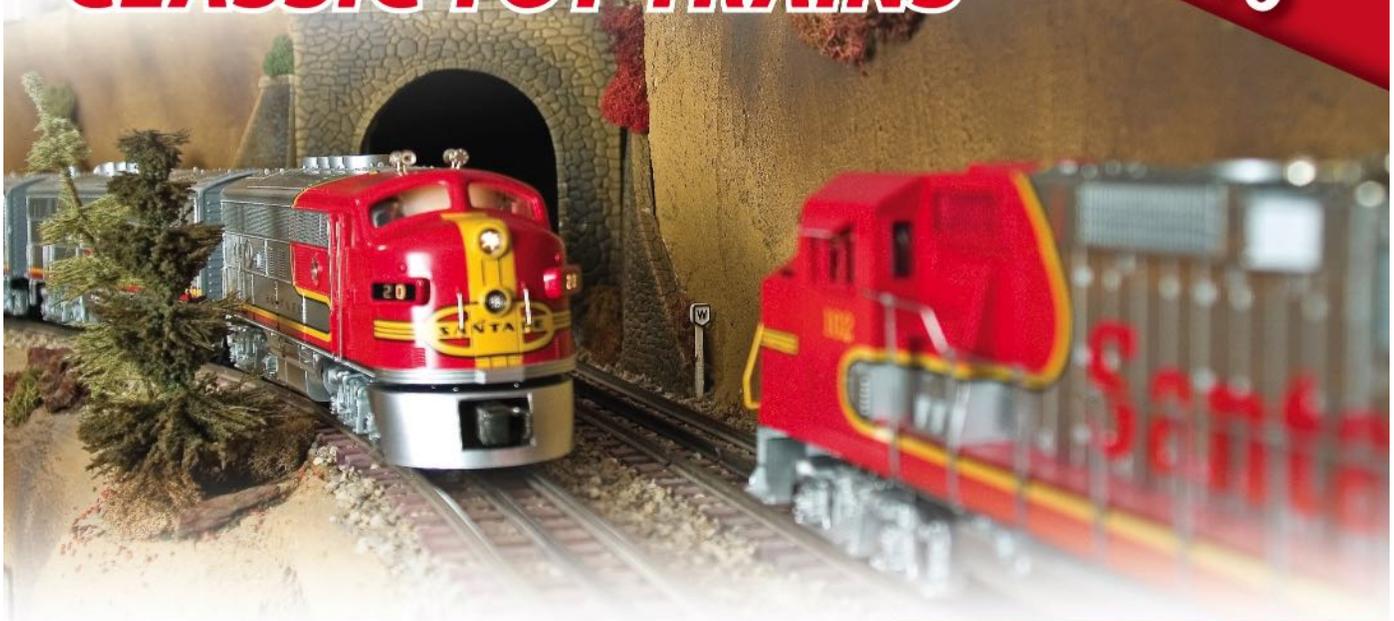
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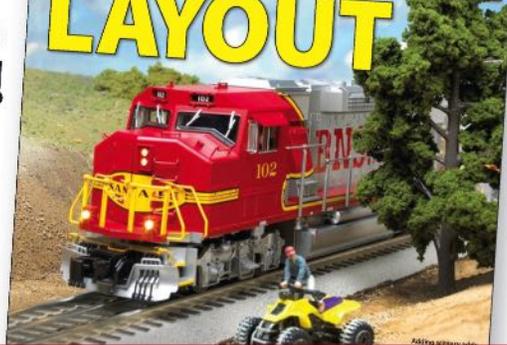
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PLASTICVILLE IN THE 2017 BACHMANN TRAINS CATALOG

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

I picked up a copy of the 2017 Bachmann Trains catalog at the April York train meet. That was a bit too late for me to get an article together for the May issue. Here is my view of the new catalog as it relates to N, HO, and O/S Plasticville.

It seems that Bachmann has the intention of discontinuing the dual catalog concept in one publication. The pages of the catalog for this year are again all oriented in the same direction as was the 2016 edition.

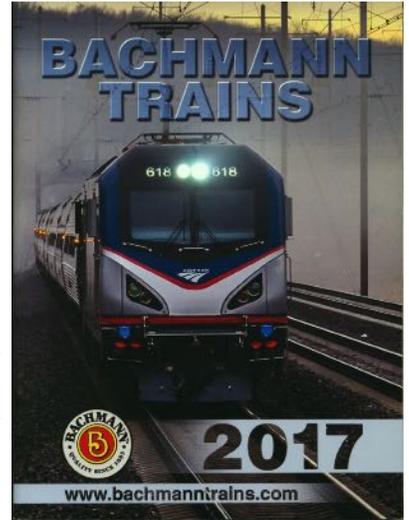
It took me a while to find the Plasticville listings. No longer is there a separate section for the O scale Plasticville as last year. All Plasticville is now lumped together a subsection of the Landscape, Building, Figures, and Accessories section.

All ten pieces offered in N scale are again offered this year. Footprints for the pieces are included inside the illustrations of all pieces again this year. Prices for every piece increased by \$3 for an approximate 10% price hike.

All twenty seven of the HO pieces appearing in last year's catalog are illustrated again this year. Footprints are either included as part of the building's illustration or below them in the item listing. Separately listed footprints are noted for each of the Farm Buildings with Animals except for the dog house. The HO line of Plasticville must be selling pretty well as there was no increase in any of the prices compared to last year.

There are twenty nine O Scale pieces listed in the 2017 catalog if the Rustic Fence is included. Both the Airport Administration

Building as well as the Airport Hangar are missing from this year's catalog. I had been made aware of the discontinuance of these two items prior to the catalog being published. I hope that my early notice that they were to be no longer produced helped you if you still needed either of them. Footprints for each piece are listed as part of the item information below the illustrations. Multiple footprints are included where there are multiple items for a stock number. The O Scale prices range from \$23 for the Farm Outbuildings and Animals to \$34 for the Town Hall.



The 2017 catalog is available on Bachmann's website to view in PDF format. The home page is listed at the end of the article. Clicking on the Catalogs and Brochures link on the that page and then on the Bachmann & Williams 2017 Catalog link on the next page will open the catalog in your browser. You can download the catalog to your computer if you wish through the drop down menu that appears at the top center of the page.

Finding the Plasticville listings is quite easy as it is now all lumped together as previously mentioned. Use the Search (magnifying glass) function in the menu bar, type Plasticville in the pop up window, and click the magnifying glass icon. Select the Page 283 option and you should now be at the beginning of the Plasticville listings in the catalog.

A hard copy catalog can be ordered for \$12 plus shipping and handling from their website.

<http://www.bachmanntrains.com/home-usa/index.php>

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NEW CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI #11-682



You may have noticed the absence of recent HO articles and creative use of damaged parts. Unfortunately both Dominic San Giovanni and Edward Johnson are no longer able to contribute to *The Villager*. I would like to thank both of them for all of the great articles that they wrote over the last several years. But now it is time for new members to step up and begin to author articles. Specifically we are looking for a new HO contributor and a new author for Creative Use of Damaged parts which covers kit-bashing. Of course if you

would like to contribute on another topic that would be welcome as well. Please contact me if you are interested and we can discuss responsibilities.

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

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 September 30, 2017.

- #1019 - Sara Jane Szabat, Oil City, PA
- #1020 - Patrick H Hehnly, Lititz, PA
- #1021 - John S Dyalla, Hackettstown, NJ
- #1022 - Jim P Wildeman, Stoughton, WI
- #1023 - Paul J Hilchey, Durham, NC
- #1024 - Jeffrey A Hummert, Monroeville, PA

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- 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

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Box Type 11

DONALD W. HUOVINEN #11-714



This new box, which I have designated Box 11, is probably the most recognizable K-Line building box. The new box reflects K-Line's admonition in the 1997 Toy Fair Catalog to "Visit the newly renovated KLINEVILLE". While the buildings proper were unchanged there were "New paint jobs on many familiar sights". At least some portion of each of the buildings was painted. The graphics on the new box are striking. The new box is known familiarly as "the black box".

Large Box Front



The new box was a complete change from previous boxes and was not a progression at all from any previous boxes.

Highlights of the new box are as follows.

- The box is a one-piece box
- The entire box is black.
- The front of the box has a gold border. The picture of the included item is centered and also has a gold border. The item number and description are printed on the picture.
- Unlike the most recent boxes, the picture of the item accurately reflects what was included in the box.
- The rectangular "K-LINE" "ELECTRIC TRAINS" logo is printed in gold in the upper left corner.
- Centered in white on the upper portion of the front is "K-LINEVILLE BUILDING KIT".
- Centered in white on the lower portion of the front is "COMPATIBLE WITH ALL "O" AND O-27 GAUGE TRAINS". Note that there is no reference to Lionel. At this point K-Line, as well as MTH and other smaller manufacturers were significant competitors to Lionel. K-Line probably felt that there was no point in advertising their competition.

- The lower left corner notes the kit is "EASY TO ASSEMBLE/PARTS SNAP TOGETHER/ALL PARTS PRE-COLORED/REALISTIC DETAILING".
- The lower right corner indicates the kit is "FOR AGES 8 THROUGH ADULT".
- The top and bottom of each box are identical however the placement of the lettering varies somewhat depending upon the size of the box. The larger box has 3 gold stripes running along the bottom portion. The rectangular "K-LINE" "ELECTRIC TRAINS" logo is printed in gold in upper left corner. The left center has a picture of the item. "K-LINEVILLE BUILDING KIT" and "EASY TO ASSEMBLE/PARTS SNAP TOGETHER/ALL PARTS PRE-COLORED/REALISTIC DETAILING" are printed on the right half of the box. The lettering is stacked vertically. The smaller box is similar however "K-LINEVILLE BUILDING KIT" is separated horizontally from "EASY TO ASSEMBLE/PARTS SNAP TOGETHER/ALL PARTS PRE-COLORED/REALISTIC DETAILING" as the box is too short to allow all the lettering to be stacked vertically.

Top & Bottom Large



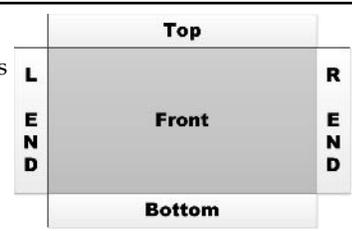
Top & Bottom Small



- The left and right ends of each box are similar but vary depending upon bar code placement and the box size. The larger box has 3 gold stripes running along the bottom portion. The rectangular "K-LINE" "ELECTRIC TRAINS" logo is printed in gold in the upper left corner and "K-LINEVILLE" "BUILDING KIT" is printed underneath it in white. The picture of the building as well as the item number and description are printed on the right side. A bar code is printed on the right end. The smaller box has the same information however the picture with the item number and description are centered between the gold "K-LINE" "ELECTRIC TRAINS" logo and "K-LINEVILLE" "BUILDING KIT" in white on the right. The bar code is printed on the right end.

Common Box Lingo

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



- The back of the box has the “K-LINE” “ELECTRIC TRAINS” logo in gold in the upper left corner followed by “K-LINEVILLE BUILDING KIT” in white. The lower left corner has “©MDK® Inc., CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515” “All rights reserved. MADE IN CHINA” printed in white.

Small Box Left End



Right Box Left End



Large Box Rear



There are several items of interest about this box. The first is that all “K-LINEVILLE BUILDING KITS” have been re-branded in the same box with stunning graphics. At long last the picture on the box accurately reflects what was included in the box. Additionally the picture of the item as well as the item number and description are prominently displayed on all five primary surfaces allowing the boxes to be displayed in a variety of orientations with the same eye-catching results.

The boxes I have observed are of two sizes:

- Larger: 12" × 6 3/4" × 2 3/4"
- Smaller: 10 1/2" × 6 5/8" × 1 1/8"

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

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Small Box Right End



Large Box Right End



Small Box Rear



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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.



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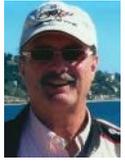
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PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 212

The Number Era Cities in a Box

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154

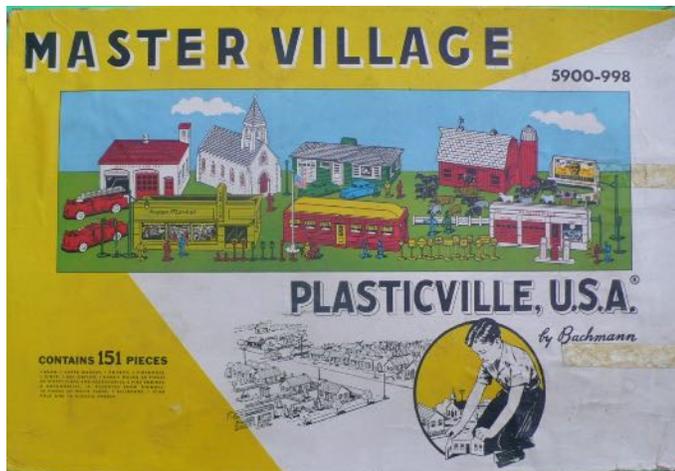


Plasticville cities in a box of the number era were well coordinated selections of kits which were crafted to help launch a child's first model railroad empire. These sets included buildings from the following categories: farms, homes, railroads and towns. The play value of the cities in a box was unparalleled in the postwar retail toy train market. Subsequently, they outlasted all but one other boxed set category - railroad centers. The cities in a box of the number era were continuously available, with each set spanning a production run of more than one year. In this chapter, the dates attributed to each individual set are the dates for which they first appeared.

A major refinement to increase their popularity seemed to be evident: the box size was again moderately reduced, and they were jammed full. As a consequence, these boxes were difficult to repack into their individual trays. So, children who might have wanted to put them back into the closet, just so, might have been laid open to... "I thought I told you to clean up your room, but you're still fooling around with with that train set!" That box might not last. Few of these boxes have ever survived into the modern era. For that reason, the cities in a box may well have contributed to the occurrence of so many unboxed vintage Plasticville items in the modern era. Even to a lesser extent, that explanation might apply for all the categories of boxed sets in the previous chapters.

fence and gate (opaque white), 1950; one billboard with a solarex ad (year of color ads attributed to 1954); 18 barnyard animals, 12 yellow street signs, and the 17 piece assortment of street implements, all 1952; 16 citizens with paint, and an American Flag pole, both 1953; plus a dark red fire engine, a dark red ladder truck, and two automobiles, 1954. When two automobiles are included one always has a hood ornament and one does not. The automobiles in this set are of frequently found colors.

Plasticville Master Village 5900 was packaged in a lift off number era box, measuring 22 x 15 x 2 1/8 inches. The box color was yellow over white separated diagonally. The set components were tightly held by seven dividing trays with the following measurements: 11 3/4 x 4 5/8 inches; 9 1/2 x 6 1/2 inches; 9 1/2 x 5 1/4 inches; and twin trays at 9 1/2 x 4 inches, plus twin trays at 9 1/2 x 3 inches. The small accessory items were packaged in crisp heat sealed bags. The set's name and number designation were



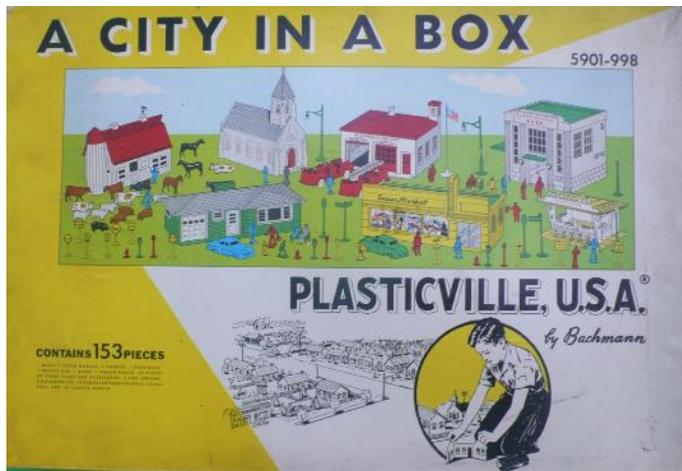
placed above the artist's rendering of contents: "Master Village" and "5900-998" appeared in bold black letters. "Plasticville U.S.A." in a mid century era 3D font appeared below the artist's rendering. "by Bachmann", in italics, trailed below and off to the right. These graphics locations were different from the positioning of the graphics on the typical number era boxes. No slogans at all were used. The ever present icon of the boy in a circle assembling a Cape Cod house was centered below the brand name; the corner forward sketch expanded out to his left. And to the extreme left of the box top was a list of contents. The list was

The cities in a a box also provided an outlet for Bachmann to reduce left over inventory. Their composition sometimes included surplus items, and discontinued items. One such set was Plasticville Master Village 5900, cataloged in 1956. It's core structures include two buildings which were relics of the letter era: a small gas station (with black background window card), 1950, and a chromized diner (with yellow roof), 1954. Those two buildings were not otherwise produced in the number era. Other structures were: a firehouse, and a small barn, both 1950; a green with white roof Bermuda ranch house, 1951; a large supermarket with black lettering, and a Parish church (with thin window cards and an affixed paper door, both 1953. Plasticville Master Village 5900 was lavishly accessorized with 12 pieces of house



boldly headed, "Contains 151 Pieces". The letter boxed rendering of contents was set on a medium green lawn under a dark blue sky with somewhat squiggly clouds; shadows indicated a noon day sun. Only three of the twelve sections of fence were represented, otherwise the picture was an accurate scene. The diner did not show chrome walls.

City in a Box 5901, cataloged in 1957, was packaged in a box just like Master Village 5900. The set's core structures included a very attractive building not found in any other boxed set, a Plasticville Bank, 1955. In this set the bank always came with white lamp fixtures, substituted in for the red. Also a major substitution was made to the large supermarket (with black lettering), 1953. The supermarket in this set always came with the bright white walls and red roof typically used only for the large gas station. Those two substitutions were likely made to reduce overstock parts. A third notable deviation in this set was the inclusion of a Tuscan color dairy barn with slide together walls, 1957, even though a small barn was pictured on the box top. Other structures were: a firehouse, 1950; a green with white roof Bermuda ranch house, 1951; a Parish church with thin window cards and an affixed paper door, 1953; and a frosty bar, 1954. City in a Box 5901 was generously accessorized with 18 barnyard animals, 17 piece street accessories, and 12 yellow street signs, all 1952; two automobiles in commonly found colors, a dark red fire engine and a dark red ladder truck, 1954; an American Flag pole, and 16 flesh townspeople (with no paint), both 1953; and 8 railroad characters, 1957. The railroad characters and the townspeople were packaged in two separate crisp heat sealed bags.



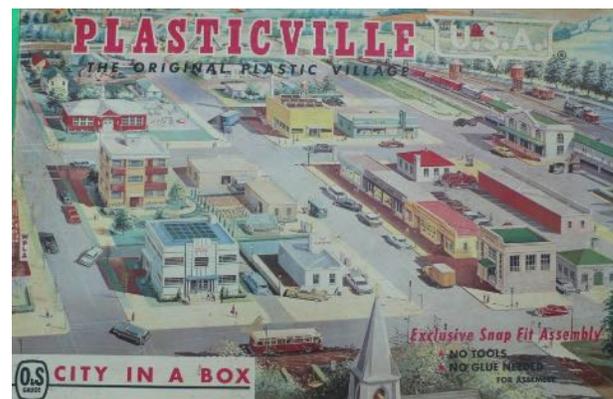
The only main difference between the 5901 box and the previous 5900 box was the size of the seven dividing trays: 9 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches; 9 1/2 x 5 1/4 inches; 9 1/2 x 4 inches; 5 x 8 inches; 5 x 6 3/4 inches; plus twin trays at 7 1/4 x 6 1/2 inches. The small accessory items were packaged in crisp heat sealed bags. The box top graphics followed the same pattern as the previous 5900. The artist's rendering of contents was set on a pea green lawn under a light blue sky with somewhat squiggly clouds. Shadows indicated a noon day sun. The picture does not show any of the substitutions which were made by the salvage department to this set.

Plasticville City in a Box 5900, cataloged in 1961, shared a number with an earlier city in a box. The reason can't be ascertained.

There were no similarities between the two sets. This boxed set contained: a Suburban Station with a brown platform and green roof, 1950 (it's very thin sign boards could be mistaken for reproductions); a shiny black base crossing gate with solid white arm, a small barn, and four green street lights, all 1950; a Bermuda ranch house, 1951, 18 barnyard animals, 1952; an American Flag pole, and a Parish church with thin window cards and paper door, both 1953; a light gray switch tower with stovepipe, 1954; a large gas station with automobile, 1955; a split level house with turquoise trim, 1959; and 2 flashing (non operating) crossing signals, 1960.



Plasticville City in a Box 5900 was packaged in the large generic box. A detailed description of this box type was presented in chapter 101 Introduction. This box was a fraction of an inch larger than those of the preceding number era sets in this chapter: 22 3/4 x 15 1/4 x 2 1/2 inches. The designation number was affixed on each end panel only; this was only a sticker with an adhesive backing. The contents were separated by seven dividing trays with the following measurements: 7 3/4 x 5 1/4 inches; 7 3/4 x 3 7/8 inches; 6 3/8 x 3 7/8 inches; plus twin trays at 11 x 5 3/4 inches and twin trays at 9 3/8 x 5 1/2 inches. There was a small rectangular void near the center where some of the trays did not meet.



City in a Box 1990, cataloged in 1962, was packaged in the exact same box as the 5900. the dividing trays were the same. The set's designation was applied the same way. The contents were: a suburban station exactly like the 5900, a small barn and 4 green street lights, all 1950; 18 barnyard animals and 12 yellow street signs, both 1952; a Parish church just like the 5900, and 16 flesh colored townspeople with paint, both 1953; 8 railroad characters and a motel with three different flower cards both 1957; a New

England ranch house with press on window panes, 1954; a large gas station with automobile, 1955; a bungalow house with an arbor gated fence, 1962; and a yellow, a green, and a red automobile which were usually enclosed with any motel, 1954.

City in a Box 3110 is an uncatalogued set which was exactly the same as City in a Box 5900 of 1961. The set's designation is heat stamped on both box ends.

In summary, Plasticville cities in a box of the number era were the nucleus for "The Town that Grows and Grows". They carried forward a municipal character that had been left unfilled with the departure of the shopping units in 1955. The shopping unit category of boxed sets did not continue into the number era. The cities in a box were expected, by Bachmann, to provide a high performance package for advertisement, promotions, and the perpetuation of sales, profit and growth. It didn't work out that way, at least for the O & S line. O gauge train sets were on the decline. The HO line would emerge as the dominating force driving Bachmann's superior ability to adapt and prosper. The following kits are recommended to supplement the number era

cities in a box because they were never included in any Plasticville boxed set or any Lionel 900 series set: the hospital, Colonial church, apartment house, a mobile home, the coaling tower, a greenhouse, the roadside farmer's market, the covered bridge and picket fence and gate.



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WILLIAM LESTER – PLASTICS REVOLUTIONARY

Paving the way for the streets of Plasticville USA

CHADWICK SUSAN #16-965

In a round-about-way, Plasticville USA became the town we all know and love because of a young man's vision that formally began in Leominster, Massachusetts. What's that you say? Well, this story actually begins in the Mid 1800s.

The Beginnings:

Even though some information may have been lost to history, there is enough information preserved to tell a clear story about how a man shaped his family legacy. This legacy begins with a master mechanic named Samuel Meyer Lesternrck, from the village of Klitchev. The village of Klitchev is located less than 100 miles, South East of Minsk Russia (current Belarus). At that time, about 50 percent of the population were Jewish. Years later, during WWII, due to Germany's horrific Operation Barbarossa, the majority of these Jews would be displaced or killed. In the Mid 1800s however, the general population had a relatively good living. Samuel was able to provide for his family, and had several lucrative professions. Samuel and his wife Phyllis Rebecca had a son in 1884, which they named Nathan.

The Foundation:

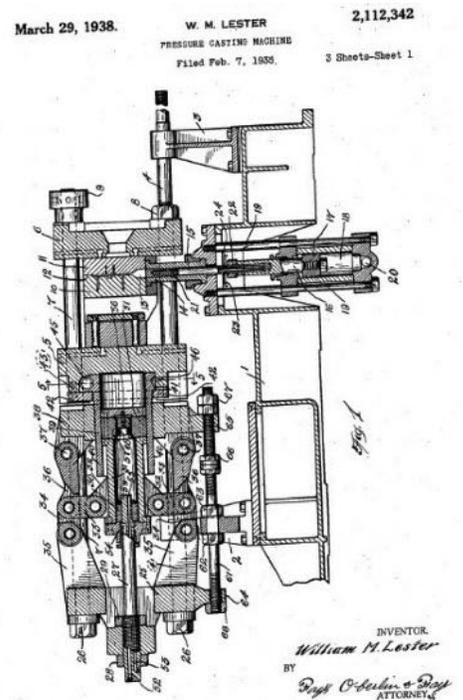
As a young man, Nathan found work in a foundry near Minsk. In 1902, he worked for a manufacturer of sawmill equipment and steam engines. Soon, he met his wife, Gussie Pollak, and they migrated to America. Documents show the Lesternrck surname was shortened to Lester shortly after coming to America. They had some family in Pennsylvania, so they moved there to help get established. Now 1905, and living in a new country, Nathan went to night school to learn English, and to study engineering at the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton. During school, he found work making dies at a local machine shop. After school, they moved to Brooklyn, NY. Shortly after their move, in 1908, they had their first son, William (Bill) Morris Lester. Jobs were plentiful there, as well as other opportunities. In 1912, Nathan started the American Die Casting Company. During this time, he grew his skills as a master machinist. Strengthening an already solid professional foundation, next, Nathan established the Lester Die & Machine Company (aka Lester Tool) in the 1920s. Then the unexpected stock market crash of 1929 made life more challenging for a few years. Nathan was able to keep his vision alive during those most uncertain times. Just a few years later, Nathan found himself partnering with The Pheonix Machine Company. Pheonix was well known for their ice cream machines, but was being challenged do to this new-fangled machine called the refrigerator. In 1935, Lester-Pheonix Die Casting Machines in Cleveland Ohio was born. The American dream was in full swing and helped this visionary become one of the top die casters in the United States during that time. Mastering many skills and being driven by his creative mind, he applied for several patents including an Injection molding apparatus and pneumatic die-casting machine. Through these many years of Nathan's personal growth, his son Bill was watching intently, and eagerly learning from his father.

The Vision:

Soon, the young Bill Lester became a young inventor and entrepreneur. Much of his success was due to his father's influence. Helping his father in the factory as a child greatly impacted him. As a young man, Bill started to design molds, and excelled in his understanding of the business. He attended the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and graduated in 1928 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 1934, Bill met Betty Lubarsky, and the couple married. Just a year later, in 1935, it was requested of Bill to participate in the start-up of the Commonwealth Plastics Company. Commonwealth Plastics was located in Leominster, Massachusetts. In order for Bill to earn his equity stake in the business, he was challenged to design, build, and perfect a commercial plastic injection molding machine. He was given 10 weeks to complete this complex project. At the time, there were many hand press molding machines, but because of his father's direction and engineering skills, Bill envisioned something much different. These early presses were hand operated and had a very low capacity for production. The hand presses didn't even come close to the efficiency and precision of this new machine Bill was in the process of creating....The Lester Machine.

The Invention:

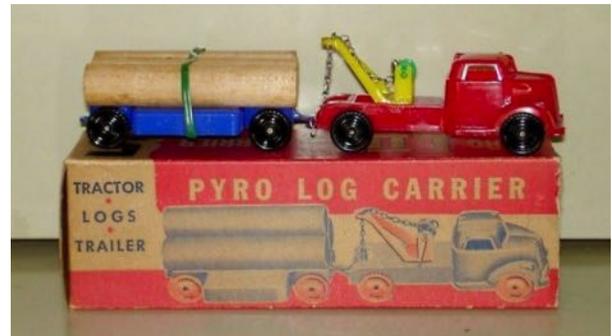
This new machine "The Lester", used hydraulic pressure to push melted plastic into two engraved metal casting blocks that were joined together like a waffle maker. The machine had a 4 ounce capacity, and could crank out parts in only 6 seconds. There were similar machines at the time that were used for rubber parts, but the process was never perfected for hard plastics. These rubber injection machines also could only produce one part every few minutes. Bachmann Brothers, which began manufacturing Plasticville USA in 1946, would use this same process to create their famous town. Commonwealth Plastics soon became a pioneer in plastics, and ended-up sitting firmly at the top of the industry. Toys & novelties were a small part of their business. This is where the party fa-



vor lamp posts come into play. (You can find more on these lamp posts in Vol. 11, No. 1 of *The Villager*). Some of the other toy items they manufactured were several types of whistles, doll house items, Dolls of Our World, and other novelties.

The company's focus in the mid 1900s shifted to selling hardware and supplies to other plastics start-up companies. Bill's father Nathan would help manufacture Lester Machines as part of the Lester-Phoenix Die Casting Company. Lester Machines were first sold nationally, then quickly expanded across the globe. Sometime around 1940, for unknown reasons, Bill sold his stake in the company. Around this same time, there are references to possible Union problems, as well as some legal issues. There are also indications that Commonwealth Plastics became a foreign company, and had offices in Delaware.

They also became a leading contractor for custom-made plastic parts. Plastic production during this span in time would forever change the landscape of history. Pyro was using an improved version of the original Lester Machine and was superior in many ways to their competitors. This caught the eye of Harry Kleeman (of Kleeman Plastics). Harry first witnessed the secret of these fast machines on a Pyro produced machine, and he set out for America to purchase 6 of them. In Bill's later years at Pyro, they would end up selling and sharing molds with many manufactur-

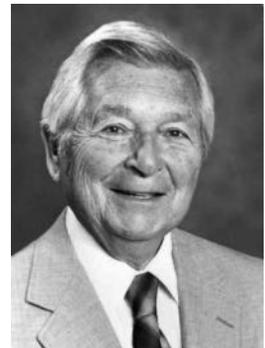


The Growth:

In 1939 Bill & his wife founded Pyro Plastics Corporation of Union, New Jersey. Pyro Plastics used the same injection molding method for forming these plastic items. During WWII, to help with the war effort, the company made components for aircrafts and autos. After the war, Pyro focused on manufacturing plastic toys. A large focus of their toy lines were geared around war toys, such as plastic clicker pistols, aircraft, army men, and ships.

ers, such as Life-Like & Lionel. Eventually, Pyro Plastics was sold in 1972 to Life-Like, so Bill could focus on something new....tamper-proof packaging.

Bill was inducted into the Plastics Hall of Fame in 1986. He was awarded several honorary doctorates from both the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. He passed away in March 2005 at his home in Delray Beach, Florida. He was 97 years old.



William (Bill) Moris
Lester 1908-2005

After much research on the Lester family, I have come to admire many things about them. Their God given talent, work ethic, and how they cared for the people they came into contact with on a daily basis. Bills obituary shows of his love for what he did, but also for how giving he was to his workers and to others that touched his life. I also found some of these same characteristics of Bills brother Tom. Tom was just as an amazing man. His name is associated with many companies,

such as Lester Castings, the Lincoln Highway Tire Company, Lester Tire Company, and Lester Wheel Company.

The Commonwealth Plastics Company was located at 98 Adams Street, in Leominster, Massachusetts. The building was eventually taken over by Paragon Plastics, who closed the plant in 1990, and is currently being used as a housing & business complex (City Place).



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K-LINE KRONICLES

Licensed Products & the Factory

ED BERG #02-123



The Louis Marx Company was no stranger to licensed products. From the earliest days of its playset production, Marx latched on to the coat tail of popular culture by offering playsets licensed for such popular television shows as 'Rin Tin Tin at Fort Apache' and 'Tom Corbett Space Academy', or based on Sunday comic strips like 'Prince Valiant', or movies such as "Ben-Hur". And then there was the Marx train production, based on, let's see...Santa Fe, Union Pacific, New York Central. Hmmmm, somehow not quite as exciting, yet it was appropriate for the times. While travel by train was still a viable option back then, it had steadily been losing ground to other forms of transportation, and train set buyers could identify with the big name railroads. When Marx did decide to make trains based on subjects other than well known prototype railroads, they chose rather generic subjects like military trains or Cape Canaveral.

Fast forward to the 1980's; Marx is out of business, their tooling scattered to the four corners of the earth, and trains are no longer the predominant means of travel. Many big name railroads are either gone or have merged to form all new companies and there's little the toy train buying public could relate to. Kids certainly couldn't relate and this is where K-Line apparently saw the perfect opportunity. What would motivate children to want a train set? What was cool enough for the modern youngster? Candy and soda pop and other goodies, that's what! Why not market trains that sported neat graphics based on products they were already familiar with like Coca-Cola, Hershey's and Nestle's chocolate? And brand name products weren't the only targets, K-Line catered to national chains like True Value Hardware Stores, Conoco, Neiman Marcus Department Stores, and many others. I believe they carved a much bigger niche in this market than any of the other toy train companies.



K-Line offered at least ten different Coca-Cola train sets up until 1998 (the cut-off date established by 'K-Line Collector's Guide Volume 1: Trains 1985-1998') and a myriad of accessories emblazoned with Coke graphics. Our first licensed offering for the

Kronicles is the #K-40111 Coca-Cola Factory based of course on the Marxville Factory. The kit is molded primarily in typical Coca-Cola colors: white walls; red roof, doors, and overhang. Only the front windows and smoke stack are molded in black. The K-Line version is fairly faithful to the original having basically the same figures and accessories which include:

Accessories

- Platform scale
- Forklift
- Drill press
- 2 Pallet loads
- 2-wheel hand truck (made from non-Marx molds as it is thicker/bigger/chunkier than the original)
- Dolly w/crates



Figures

- Man w/outstretched hand
- Man w/clipboard and pen
- Service attendant hammering
- Man pushing separate hand truck (listed above)
- Worker in hardhat, holding tool over right shoulder
- Worker carrying box on right shoulder (this figure was not originally included in the Marx Factory set)
- Attendant pushing broom (this figure was not originally included in the Marx Factory set)



Location of K-Line logo: None. No logo is present

The only drawback to this kit was the decision by someone to paint the faces on the figures. In a 'what were they thinking?' moment, the result was hideous looking Oompaloompah figures. (After all they didn't paint the dark blue firemen or policemen in their respective sets and they looked just fine).

Ed ICE Berg

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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.
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- Procures printing of the new
- Mails the printed newsletter



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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
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

WINDSOCK, LOG CABIN CHIMNEY, FIRE DEPARTMENT SIREN, CHIMNEY CAP, POLICE
DEPARTMENT RED LIGHT, CHIMNEY CAP, HOSPITAL SIREN, ST CHAIR, DESK CHAIR,
CATTLE PEN CROSS BARS (with 2 holes or slot), BANK RED LIGHT, LARGE CANOPY, SMALL
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

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

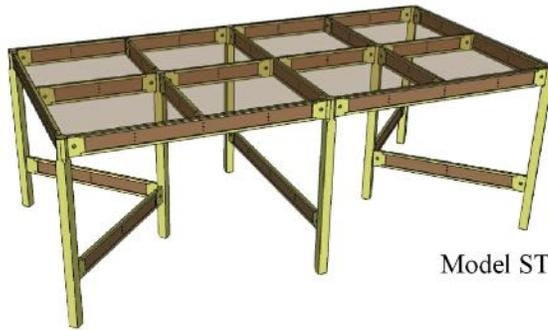
Dealer inquiries welcome for Plasticville Guides and Plasticville parts listed above.

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

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WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

Colors of turnpike in my set are a darker blue and a off white compared to the original .Do not know if all sets are the same shade.

Wesley Kidd #09- 584

I really enjoy the quarterly (newsletter). It really has come a long way and is quite informative.

Chuck Neuman #08-528

Does anyone have a list of all 35 pieces in the Lionel #957 farm buildings & animal set?

Rich Kotowski #13-818

Thanks much for making the "front" page of the VILLAGER. And too for the "What Members Are Saying" comments, both. WELL DONE Matthew, Thanks again. I look forward to every issue.

Jim Steed #01-55

The picture on page 3 (May Issue) shows the cedar hill junction switch tower. This building was offered as 590 control tower in 1955-56 and again in 1957-59 as 23590. This is the same tower as Bachmann's except its lighted and is painted. I own one of these and the price on the store sticker is 2.98. as far as I know this is the only Plasticville building that was offered by American Flyer or A.C. Gilbert.

Albert Hery #10-647

A couple of comments for the what members are saying section. First I had a small pleasant surprise this month I purchased a CH-8 church and house unit. When I opened it the evergreen tree was a black base Canadian. This is the only Canadian item that I have so that was kind of nice. Second I think the only appropriate comment to the volunteers who make the club the unique resource that it is, is THANK YOU.

Clint Baker #10-664

John Niehaus suggested I e-mail you about identifying Citizens molded in a blue color. Hopefully, you can tell me if they are Plasticville or some other manufacturer.

Tony Santay #09-568



The light blue color and the fact that they are somewhat flexible may indicate they are Littletown figures. Additional information from the members is still solicited.

I have the CD of all Plasticville catalogs from 1950 to 1966 and all the telephone poles shown have two cross members at the top.

Richard H. Wedekindt #06-440

ORGAN GRINDER

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

Member Rich Kotowski wrote in asking about information on a Moneky Grinder, It had ITALY and VAN BRODE Clinton Mass marked on the bottom. A Google search brought up the quite a bit of information regarding Van Brode of Clinton MA. The company was located at 20 Cameron St, Clinton, Massachusetts. They made various "generic" cereals probably in the late 40's or early 50's based on the design of the packages. These included: Crisp Rice, Puffed Wheat, Puffed Rice, Corn Flakes, Rice Flakes, Wheat Flakes, Ko-Ko-K, and 25-40% Bran Flakes. They may have also marketed these under additional names as I found an advertisement for



Luckies Puffed Wheat that also carried the Van Brode company name.

The organ grinder is but one of the many "People of the World" premiums included as free prizes inside the boxes of cereal. They were always made in pairs of male and female figures showing them in their country's traditional costume. Their general size was 1 7/8" to 2" high and 1 1/4" wide x 1/2" deep. Strangely, the three instances that I have seen of Van Brode cereal boxes there is no mention of a premium inside.



The organ grinder figure is the male figure for Italy. It was one of over 20 different figurines as far as I can determine. The majority of the figures were molded in white but they supposedly came in eight different colors. I have only seen a dark green figure. Additionally, some were hand painted.

A quick eBay search found over 80 listings for single and groups of figures. They seem to have minimal value as single pieces were offered for a low as \$1.75.

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The list is free but please include \$2.96 to cover actual First Class mail postage.

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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.

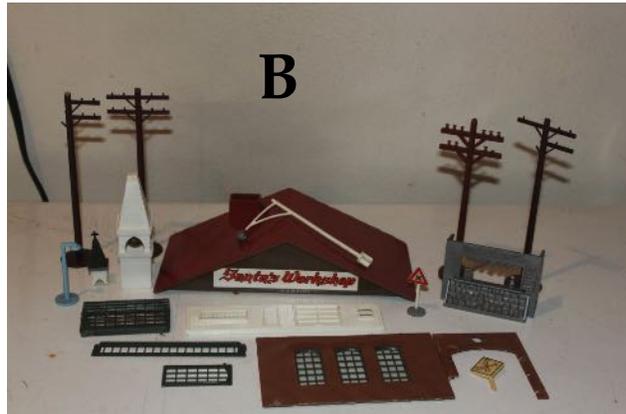


Last Call Parts

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.

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.



Available parts continued from the previous page.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loading Platform Railroad Station Ranch House School House Southern Colonial House Telegraph Pole <li style="padding-left: 40px;">*** 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <li style="padding-left: 40px;">*** 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *** SKYLINE *** 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
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THE PCA CORNER STORE



ITEMS FOR SALE BY THE PCA

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

Personalized address labels

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels are available from the PCA. The labels 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.

**** SOLD OUT ** Coffee Mug with PCA logo ** SOLD OUT ****

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

African American Railroad Workers of Roanoke, Oral Histories of the Norfolk & Western, Sheree Scarborough on behalf of the Historical Society of Western Virginia, 156 pages, softcover, 6×9, \$19.99. Published by The History Press.

Oral histories are always of interest to me. Almost any subject is of interest to me. That is why I chose to obtain and review this book.

Included in this book are interviews of twelve African Americans who worked for the Norfolk & Western Railroad at various points in time. The interviews were recorded by the author and then transcribed into what are twelve chapters in this book, one chapter for each interview.

It was interesting to note that none of the twelve expressed an extremely negative attitude toward the railroad. They did note the very real discrimination between themselves and the whites. All of them also expressed their pride in working for the Norfolk & Western whether they were in the wheel shop or a porter. Many of these rose to management positions after the Civil Rights act. Interestingly, there is one female represented in the twelve chapters. Her insight into the treatment of her in the IT

Burlington Route, Passengers Trains - Volume Three, Passenger Train Problem Impacts the "Q", John F Strauss, Jr, 208 pages, hardcover, 8 3/4×11 1/4, \$59.95. Published by Four Ways West Publications. Color and black and white illustrations throughout.

As indicated by the title, this is the last book in a series of three volumes that follows the first Burlington Zephyr until the service was taken over by Amtrak. The volume covers service from 1960 through late 1971. Sadly, these were the declining years for all passenger service, not just Burlington's.

The dedication in the book is the author's father who worked for many years in the Burlington Passenger Traffic Department. The author credits his father as being his primary source of material for this book. There is also an acknowledgements, a short bibliography, and an author's foreword. An appendix is included at the end of the book but no index. The appendix is unique as it lists the passenger car numbers of the photos included in each volume as well as the page or pages on which they appear. The last page in the book is a short biography of the author.

There are charts on various subjects throughout. Some included are schedules, seasonal "lineups", renumbered cars acquired from other railroads, and consist lists. This is the book to purchase if you want to authentically recreate a specific Burlington

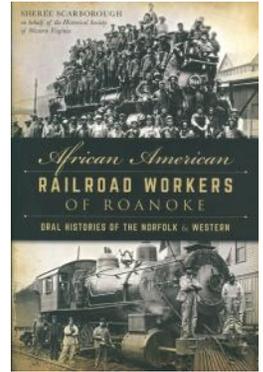
department when it was a male dominated department is interesting.

In addition to the twelve interviews there is a Foreword, Acknowledgements, and Introduction prior to the beginning of the chapters. Closing out the book are two Afterwords, an Epilogue, two Appendixes, a Selected Bibliography, an Index, and a short note about the author.

I found the interviews in this book to be quite interesting both from a human relations historical point as well as a railroad historical point. I recommend this book if you would like an insight into the professional lives of African Americans who worked for the Norfolk & Western Railroad.

African American Railroad Workers of Roanoke, is available directly from the History Press at the website below. It is also available on Amazon in new condition for a little more than \$10, plus shipping. It is also available in Kindle format.

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com>



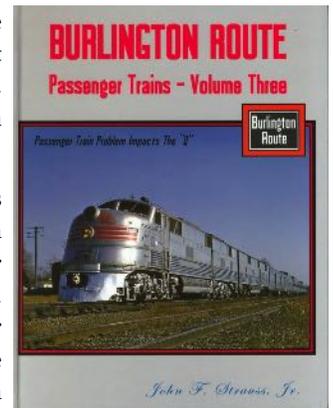
Zephyr consist after 1960. The consist lists note the equipment numbers, the owning railroad, the car name if applicable, and a lengthy description of the car.

There are numerous ads throughout the book in addition to the charts and lists. The color photos, especially, are superb. All photos contain photographer attribution and if it is now in the collection of someone other than the photographer.

This book is a history lesson on the slow decline of the Burlington's services and on all passenger services in general. I enjoyed the book and intend to acquire the two previous volumes.

Burlington Route, Passengers Trains - Volume Three, is available on the publisher's website noted below. It is listed there at \$59.95. I did not find it available on Barnes & Noble's or Amazon's website.

<http://fourwayswest.com/books>



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

Tragedy at Southern Oregon Tunnel 13, Dautremonts Hold up the Southern Pacific, Scott Mangold, 207 pages, softbound, 6x9 format, \$21.99. Published by; The History Press. Vintage black & white photos throughout. Numerous historical sidebars throughout.

In a capsule: this book is about three young men, two aged 23 and one aged 19, who thought that they had planned the perfect robbery of a train carrying vast sums of money only for it to end in a disastrous result.

Ray, Roy, and Hugh Dautremont were from an abusive as well as broken home. Their father was somewhat nomadic, taking the family from Williamsburg, Iowa where he met and married his first wife, to Arkansas, to Colorado, and finally to Lakewood, New Mexico. He read a brochure touting the "greenest place on earth", Lakewood. The brochure touted abundant water and beautiful green valleys. It was a swindle and he was left with desert and limited water. He was forced to contend with local cattlemen who would break down his fences so that their cattle could drink his water. The swindle and the constant battles with the cattlemen were too much and he became abusive to his five children as well as his wife before they separated. The separation and the "cattle wars" was the beginning of the downfall for the three boys.

Roy left home after the breakup but soon returned and enticed his twin brother to go with him on an expedition of discovery in the Northwest. Neither had a high school education making it difficult to find anything more than menial jobs. It was about this

Vital Rails, The Charleston & Savannah Railroad and the Civil War in Coastal South Carolina, H David Stone, Jr, 369 pages, hardbound, 7x10 1/2 format, \$39.95. Published by The University of South Carolina Press. Black and white photos as well as numerous maps.

I have always been interested in the of history of the Civil War as well as trains. I even researched the history of two of my distant uncles from Illinois who participated in the Civil War while I was in elementary school. When I became aware of this book I knew that I had to get a copy since it related to both of my interests.

The Civil War was the first time in U.S. history where railroads played a significant role in the conflict. The North had more miles of track by a margin of over 5 to 1. It also had, for the most part, a standard gauge of track. The South had numerous gauges.

Most of the railroads in the South were built by individuals or by corporations. The general feeling in the South during this time period was that the government should not be involved in commercial ventures. The North was just the opposite. Government subsidies paved the way for many of the railroads including the first transcontinental road.

This book chronicles the Charleston & Savannah railroad from its earliest days through the end of the Civil War until its absorption into another company in 1901. The book delves into the building of the railroad through rice fields and salt marshes where the only option was to build extensive trestles as well as the need to bridge numerous rivers.

time that Roy suggested that they commit a big robbery and fade away never to be seen again. They traveled back to Lakewood and enticed their younger brother Hugh to join them.

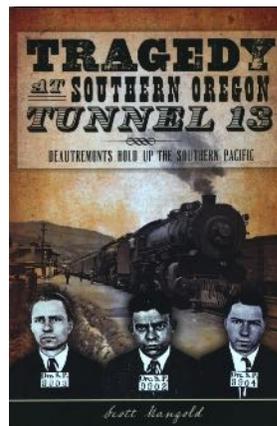
Their plan was to rob the U.S. Mail car of a Southern Pacific train reputed to be carrying an extremely large amount of gold. Ironically there was no gold on board the car.

The three blew open the mail car when the clerk inside failed to cooperate, killing the clerk. They used all of the dynamite that they had stolen a few days earlier rather than one or two sticks. This started the unraveling of the entire robbery. By the time it was over there were four people murdered, three in cold blood.

It took authorities over three years to capture all three men and bring them to justice. They all plead guilty and wrote a detailed confession thus avoiding the death penalty.

I enjoyed reading the book and hope that you will also.

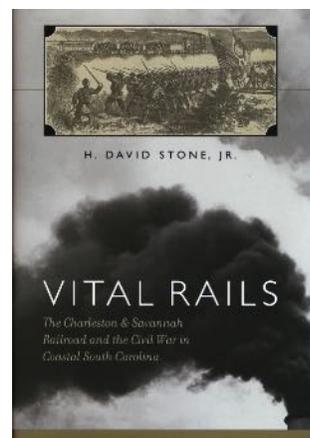
Tragedy at Southern Oregon Tunnel 13 is available directly from the History Press at the website below . It is also available on Amazon in new condition for as little as \$12.90 plus shipping. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com>



Numerous attempts were made by the Union to capture it. It was one of the very few if not the only railroad to survive capture by the North until after Sherman burned Atlanta. After Sherman's burning of Atlanta he effectively circled both Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia and ultimately the railroad.

This is an extremely interesting book about the Civil War as well as one single railroad that withstood numerous attempts at capture. I have recommended this book to various Civil War buffs as well as railroad history buffs and do the same to you. I do not think you will be disappointed in this book due to all of the history, both general and trivial.

Vital Rails is available from The University of South Carolina Press at <http://www.sc.edu/uscpres>. I found the book available on Amazon's website in hardcover with new books priced at \$31.23 and what was termed a downloadable e-document for \$9.95. Amazon's website is a bit confusing at what an e-document is but it seems to be the book in PDF format. Barnes & Noble's website offers it in hardcover for \$35.99. It does not seem to be offered in NOOK format, probably because of the various maps and photos included in the print version.



THE VILLAGER CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

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.

Ending May 2018

NOS School House lights, \$10 pair postpaid. NOS School House weathervane, \$5 postpaid. Combination lights, weathervane, 4 assorted figures in factory sealed bag, \$12, postpaid. #00-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 johnln@netins.net.

WANTED

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 Rescue, 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.

Ending May 2018

1409-79 Poplar Trees - 1 top piece. 1628-100 Shade Trees - 2 pieces each third and fourth sections from bottom, I can provide a photo if that helps. 1404-79 Pine Trees - 1 middle sized trunk and 2 green tree tops. #00-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 johnln@netins.net.

FOR TRADE

Ending May 2018

I Need: motel-2 side walls salmon, front door white. Dairy barn - one red and one white vent-round. Split level - 2 chimney tops. Fruit stand - cupola and roof. Have Hospital, police, station, signal bridge, greenhouse, roof and flowers, diner, water tank, log cabin, others to trade. All evenings. #13-799 Fred Hachmeyer, 330 Concord Drive Mayood, NJ 07607 Ph. 201-587-1754. E-mail Fred.Hachmeyer@falconjet.com.

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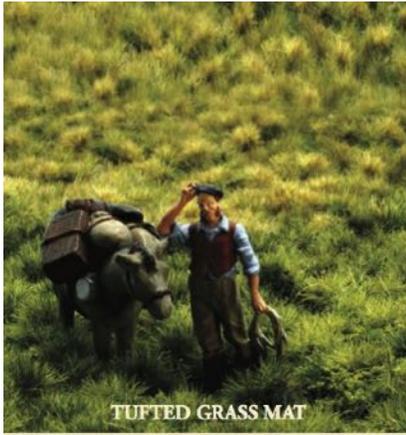


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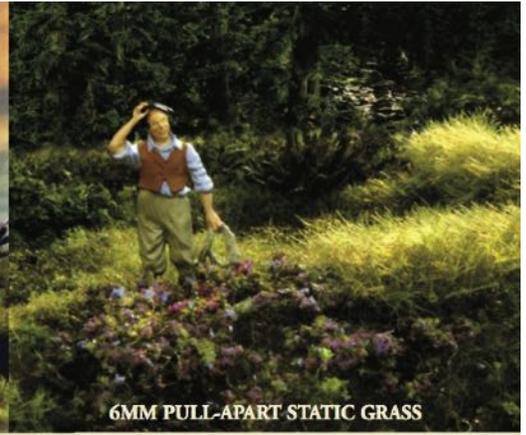




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