



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 18

March 2019

Number 1

A BIG PLASTICS® WESTERN PLAYSET

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

Every once in a while I come across a unique piece of plastic village buildings. The buildings described in this article is one of those times. I purchased a large collection of mostly Littletown buildings and what I am about to describe was included.

You may have noticed that the title of this article includes the word **big** in all capital letters. That is because the name of the manufacturer of the set is Big Plastics. The only clue I had initially was the name BIG Plastic and a logo molded into my pieces.

The logo looked somewhat like a longhorn steer. I have found references to DBGM Big Plastics in some auction listings and presume it is the same company based upon the logo seen on the boxes shown in some of the auctions as they are the same outline as on my building pieces. **PHOTO 1.** I have not had any success in finding company information related to either name in my Internet searches although it seems from my research that they produced quite a few toys at one time.



This set is also **big** in another way. I measured the walls of one of the buildings and found them to be about 33 feet wide × 25 feet

deep × 18 feet high using my trusty 1:48 scale. Taking into account that the walls are approximately 18 feet high I am presuming that the buildings are actually scaled closer to 1:24 than 1:48, making the walls 9 feet high. I assembled one building to give you an idea as to their configuration. **PHOTO 2**

The buildings are assembled in the same manner as the Little-



town pieces and the Plasticville Motel. That is, with a half slot and a half tongue on each wall. The walls are of a solid color although their corners and the molding around the windows are painted white. Brown molded sidewalks are included although my set does not have enough to for all of the included buildings.

There are numerous signs to add to the roofs of each building including Saloon, Sheriff, Bank, and City Hall amongst others. Various railings and post combinations to enhance the front of each building as well as support the porch roofs are also included.

The set also includes a few horses with removable cowboys, a stagecoach, and various small accessories. Two of those accessories are unique. One is a water trough but in addition to the

continued on page 5

The Villager

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



I like old hobby magazines. I was reading through a 1970 issue of *Car Model* and stopped at the monthly feature on collectible miniatures -- meaning Matchbox, Corgi, etc. vehicles. I never recall anything being called "collectible" in the '70's -- now everything is. Anyway, to the point, the author was bemoaning how manufacturers

had gone to "speed wheels" on their little vehicles and how that was probably going to be their demise. Forty-seven years later I gave my one grandson a box of a dozen new Hot Wheels for Christmas and his eyes bulged with joy.

Guess that author missed the call on that one. Actually, thousands of Hot Wheels vehicles and variations have been made, and there are some collectors that have every one and even have dedicated rooms of their houses to the collection. And like all collections, those who have started later and are trying to go back find prices can be, in some cases, extremely high. And so it is with Barbie, Lionel, Matchbox, antique whatever's, and, to a lesser extent, Plasticville.

There is lots of common stuff around, but when the collection is 95% complete, those last few missing pieces can be worth almost the rest of the collection together. Here I would note (following last issue's article) the Plasticville/Bachmann playset with the Olive Hanger that recently sold on eBay for just over \$1,000 (I wonder if Matt has gotten an article about it?).

Of course, one of the advantages the Plasticville collector has is that, unlike Hot Wheels, Barbie, Lionel, and others, Bachmann isn't cranking out new buildings and/or color variations every year, and with the glut of low-priced old Plasticville on eBay and at train shows it is possible for anyone to build 90% of a collection -- not including the items produced for Lionel, where you are paying for the box more than for the common items in the box. If I'm right, since the last big introduction of the built-ups

several years ago, there has been one HO western set and a return to the white and blue Turnpike in a Williams O set that have been offered as something new to the collector. And therein may lie the sticky wicket, as they say.

I remember years ago coming across a guy in Toys'R'Us (r.i.p.) who was diligently searching through the racks of Hot Wheels and filling a shopping cart. Obviously a new release had just come out and he was trying to get one or more of each new item. There is a certain appeal to adding the newest and latest to a collection -- even, like our family did for a while, if it is only a yearly new Christmas plate to hang on the wall. But Plasticville, and Plasticville collecting, has a far more limited appeal -- there are, after all, usually 500 plus or minus members in the PCA (and only 1/3 of them thought a special edition Frosty Bar was worth purchasing). Which means the runs that Bachmann must produce in China to make it financially worthwhile can mean many years' worth of inventory. Again, if I'm right, the Motel is the only O building which has received a color makeover in the green box era. In other words, one of the disadvantages the Plasticville collector has is the same as our advantage -- no new stuff.

When I talked to someone at Bachmann a few years back, he seemed openly interested in the idea of having Bachmann do some of their runs in new colors with a label mentioning the 20th anniversary of the PCA -- not all the buildings, mind you, but maybe just four or five that would coordinate with their normal production schedule in China. I would like to see that work. And maybe if a few of you would write/email Bachmann suggesting the same, maybe we'll get a few new items to add to our collections. In the meantime, good luck in finding those old items which make your collection more enjoyable.

Chris Matthy
PCA President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well, here it is the first part of February, and my wife and I have not yet moved into our new home in Aurora Colorado. Unlike the last home we purchased in PA three years ago, this home was not "in turn key condition" to move into right away. So even though my train layout was totally torn down and packaged carefully, all of the moved boxes in Colorado are still unpacked, and no work has been done yet due to other issues having a much higher priority.

It appears that the 20th anniversary Frosty Bar had a good response from our membership. I do not as yet have the details as to when Bachmann will produce and then ship them to the PCA, but my gut feel thinks that they will be delivered to us mid-year, and then delivered to our membership shortly after.

In the February 2019 issue of *Classic Toy Trains*, there is an article written by a model railroader discussing a contest that Lionel Trains advertised in their 1960 catalog. The contest dictated that it was for children and they had to send a picture of one of the prescribed layouts presented in the catalog. The catalog

showed different layouts for O Gauge, 027 Gauge and for Super O as well. The author wrote that his layout was full of scenery which included some Plasticville houses. In 1960, my younger brother and I just happened to have one of the 027 layouts presented on page 33 (I think) of that catalog in our basement that we would put up every winter, so obviously we submitted a picture of it. Our layout was fully saturated with Plasticville buildings, trees and lichen bushes over a green mat which covered our 4x8 plywood table along with a backdrop of a scene from a company called "Lifelike".

I was heavy into collecting the Plasticville buildings of what was available to me at an early age, and I'm convinced that the reason that we won one of the prizes in the contest was the presence of all of the scenery that we had on our layout. I'm also sure that Lionel wanted to see all of the layout ideas that were out there as well. I often wonder whatever happened to all of the pictures that were probably sent. I still have a picture of that layout that we won with. I also enjoy going through the monthly model train magazines to see how the pictures presented included the

various Plasticville buildings. Even though the hobby has bent heavily into Hi Rail, I still appreciate seeing the nostalgia of brightly colored Plasticville being incorporated into the layouts.

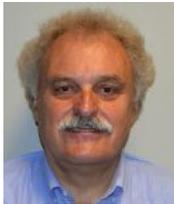
As Lou Palumbo always says, "Keep Searchin".

Frank Ross
PCA Vice President



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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



The orders for the 20th anniversary Frosty Bars have been tallied and the number that we wish to order has been sent to Bachmann. Bachmann is to get back with me as to whether the unit price will remain as initially quoted or rise due to material increases since first quoted. This is always an issue when placing special orders.

We are also hoping to be shown a pre-production piece in our requested colors to ensure that we do not have an issue as we did with the 5th anniversary house. That piece initially came to us in a specially marked box but with the house in the colors of its production at that time.

I will not be running for Secretary/Treasurer for the 2020-2021 term due to my health issues. In addition to health issues I also want to have more time to write articles for *The Villager*. Additionally, I now have all but one of the HO catalogs that are standalone catalogs - not included in the O/S catalog for a specific year. (Does anyone have a 1953 HO catalog?) My hope is to get them scanned and added to the website. There are still many pieces for which we do not have photos on the website. If I am no longer performing Secretary/Treasurer duties I will have time to set up my photo booth and start taking photos.

Now is the time to start thinking about running for office for the 2020-2021 term. All three positions: President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer are up for election for the next term. There is a possibility that the Secretary/Treasurer's position may be split into two positions if interest is shown for one or the other of them instead of the combined position. Please give careful consideration to running for any of the offices. You will not be left high and dry if you run. I, and the other current officers, will be more than happy to help you through the transition period.

Congratulations to PCA members David Sammet (#12-749), Charles Neuman (#08-528), and Jim Steed (#01-55). They were contest winners in the *Lionel Collectors Club of America* Christmas photo contest. Their photos were published in a recent issue of the LCCA newsletter, *The Lion Roars*.

I have finally completed sorting the remainder of the giant parts bin donation I received quite some time ago. I now have the smaller, often missing, parts sorted. As one can imagine, I do not have every small part in the assortment but some. Feel free to ask for small parts now but please do not be disappointed if I say that The Parts Bin does not have what you need. Please be certain to specify the color of the part you need if there are

various colors possible regardless of whether it is a small part or a large part such as a wall or roof.

I had a member inquire about initiating a lifetime membership option. This was discussed by the Executive Committee quite a few years ago. It was decided that with the small amount of membership and the added work by the treasurer to manage an account for lifetime membership funds was not feasible at that time. That is still the feelings of the Committee.

Do you know a business or a person who may be a candidate for advertising in *The Villager*? Our advertising revenues generally pay for the cost to print one edition of our newsletters. This is one way in which we can keep our membership dues low. Do you have a thought of a business or a person who may be a candidate who would profit from advertising in our newsletter? You do not need to sell them on advertising in our newsletter. Just send me the company or the individual's name and contact information. I will make contact with them. Which is a great segue into my next subject.

A quick calculation of the number of postage stamps I use when mailing the newsletters for the year is approximately 4000. My intent in bringing up this subject is twofold.

First: One of my duties as treasurer is to keep expenses as low as possible. One of the ways in which I do this is to purchase postage at a discount of face value. This helps to reduce the actual mailing cost of the printed newsletters. Reduced postage costs, again, helps to keep membership dues at their current rates.

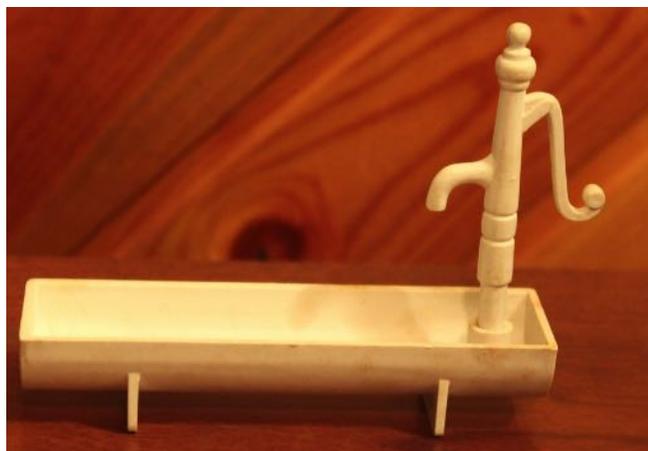
Second: I would sure like to see more of the stamps come back to me at the end of the year when you send in your membership dues. The stamps are not for my use but for use by a 90+ year old gentleman who conducts stamp collecting programs in three elementary schools in the rural St Louis, Missouri area.

My thanks to all of you who sent me well wishes while I was going through my radiation treatments at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Your words of encouragement were definitely appreciated. My treatments went well with minimal side effects. I now have to wait until June for a blood test to determine if they were effective. Thank you again for your words of encouragement.

It is my sad duty to inform you that PCA charter member Joseph Mace, #01-56, passed away on October 5 of last year.

John L Niehaus
Secretary/Treasurer

trough there is a yard pump that fits into it. **PHOTO 3** The pump looks too ornate for its probable use on a public watering trough.



The other item is hitching posts where the vertical posts extend above the horizontal a distance with an upward angled peg on the outside, almost as if it were for a coat or a hat. **PHOTO 4**



There are also two directional signs, similar to what one saw if they watched the TV series MASH. One sign points to Kingston and Fayette at 90 degrees to each other and the other to Pueblo and Dodge City also at 90 degrees to each other. **PHOTO 5** Does anyone know why Kingston and Fayette are named on the sign? I found nothing for Fayette when searching that name along with Kansas or Colorado. I did find a Kingston, Colorado.

As noted earlier I have not been able to find information on either company name and would be interested in any additional information other members may have regarding this set.

I have been able to determine that there was a King Arthur's Castle set made, probably marketed by Sears in the 60's and a Fort Laramie set that may have been marketed about the same time. I have not been able to locate either of these sets in my Sears or any of my other department store toy catalog reference books though.

This set would make an interesting background or a good start on a western themed garden train layout. It would look quite charming at a distance.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of February 1, 2019.

- #1049 Vincent P Majoney, Stratford, CT
- #1050 Nicholas J Ivanoff, Seymour, CT
- #1051 Roger Stoel, Holland, MI
- #1052 Thomas J Blewett, Verona, WI
- #1053 Thomas D Brumbaugh, Lafayette, LA
- #1054 Nicholas A Di Sandro, Godfrey, IL
- #1055 Pierre P Marki, Camden, ME
- #1056 Robert L McLeroy, Conroe, TX
- #1057 Alan B Kalos, Lake Station, IN

PROPOSED MEMBERS

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association as of February 1, 2019. The names of all proposed members must be published for the review of the general membership before being accepted as members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be permanently added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls on March 31, 2019 if no objection to such action is received prior to that date.

- #1058 Joseph Plisiewicz, Bridgeport, PA
- #1059 Elliott A Yolles, Indianapolis, IN
- #1060 Stephen H Rodriguez, Pleasanton, CA
- #1061 Richard J Thornton, Littleton, CO
- #1062 Buddy Givens, Oklahoma City, OK
- #1063 Jay S Weber, Clarendon Hills, IL
- #1064 Joseph B Smith, South, Amboy, NJ
- #1065 Tom J Guinta, Trumbull, CT
- #1066 Daniel N Mullen, West Chester, PA
- #1067 Walt Stezler, Boulder, CO

ON THE LAYOUT PUZZLE

About how many hours would it take to travel from 1901 to 1958?

I received several submissions for an answer to the above puzzle. They were probably correct in terms of traveling from the Year 1901 to the year 1958 but when I thought of the puzzle I had Plasticville on the mind.



1901 and 1958 are both Union Station buildings. Both of these buildings have a clock on it and the time is different! The 1901 issue was the first Union station and it has the molded clock. The time looks to be around 12:02 (AM or PM, it is unknown). If we move to 1958, by train of course, we find that the time is about 4:57 (AM or PM). This building has a sticker for the clock.



So if we assume they are both either AM or PM, the minimum number of hours would be 4, just shy of 5 hours.

EDITOR'S COLUMN



I am finding that preparing the newsletter in February is much easier than January. This way I avoid the regular traveling I need to do every January.

This January my Dad and I attended a large train show in Springfield Mass at the end of January. While the American Flyer was plentiful the amount of Plasticville was lacking. We left with no Plasticville. EBay has had some rare pieces show up recently. Several red roof post offices have been up for sale as well as multiple Autumn tree assortments. Hopefully these items went to PCA Members.

I am in need of more articles. Please consider contacting me if you have an idea for a contribution. I can assist with formatting, editing and they layout.

I am also not receiving very many classified ad submissions.

Matt Harvazinski

The Villager Editor

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

4115 W. Ave. J7 Lancaster CA, 93536

QUESTION

It is well known that there are mold numbers on the underside of the car roofs. They are numbered 1-12 and 0 is used for 9. I have wondered what the number system for Busses and Ambulances is? I have only seen 1-6 and Ambulances and 1-5 on buses. If you have a large collection of these please take a look and send me a note with your findings.

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

HOW TO DETERMINE WHEN A CATALOG NUMBER CHANGED FOR A SPECIFIC ITEM

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

There are times when one may wish to know when a catalog number of a specific piece changed. Catalog numbers for many of the pieces changed over the years for various reasons. A good example would be the O/S Railroad and Street Signs. Not only did the catalog number change four times but the catalog name changed three times. Let's try to determine when they were first listed as number 1405 the catalog.

Take a guess as to in what year catalog the number may have changed. Don't have catalogs? Log onto the Members section of the PCA website. Select O/S from the dropdown menu on the home page. Scroll down and click on the **Advertising** link at the bottom of the page. This will open the open the catalog archives.

Click on the catalog cover of the year that you are guessing that the number you are researching first appeared. If the item is pictured on one of the pages with the catalog number you are researching that is a good sign. Now open the catalog file that is

two years earlier than the one you first opened and perform the same search. If the catalog number is different than the one on which you are researching then open the catalog file that is one year earlier than the one you first opened and perform the same search once more. If the catalog number you are researching appears then you know that is the first year of the use of that catalog number otherwise it is the same year as the year of the first catalog file you opened. It took opening three different year's catalogs before finding that catalog number 1405 for the O/S Railroad and Street Signs is first listed in the 1957 catalog.

It is my hope that in the future we can associate a year of introduction with each catalog number. In the meantime, especially if the piece is O/S the PCA catalog archive is a good resource for this information.

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0550 King Add A Floor (Brown or Red) \$8 each 3/\$20
1983 Colonial Mansion Scenic Classic \$20 Mint
1984 Colonial Church Scenic Classic \$25 Mint
1986 New Eng. Ranch Scenic Classic \$20 Mint
1987 Barn Scenic Classic \$18 Mint
45985 LCCA Air Admin Bldg Orange/Blue, \$20 Mint
1618 TV Station with RARE Decal \$95

1923 Roadside Stand \$20 Mint
1809 Loading Platform \$15 Mint
DE-7 Diner \$10
1504 Trailer \$30
1624 House Under Construction \$30
1804 Greenhouse, \$30
45986 LCCA Hangar, \$20 Mint
ON-5 Outdoor Necessities \$35
SC-4 School with RARE red weathervane \$75

No Box Kits, Complete

Railroad Work Car \$10, Suburban Station \$8, Mobile Home (6 different colors) \$12 ea or 6/\$60
Barn \$8, Hobo Shacks \$15, School \$10, Fire Department \$10, Turnpike (green walls) \$15
Diner \$8, Add-A-Floor \$6 each 3/\$15, Colonial Mansion (red roof) \$15, Colonial Church \$15

Accessories

Telephone Booth \$4 each or 3/\$10, Outhouse (brown) \$4, 2 RED Fire Trucks \$10 per set
Street Corner signs with original tags 6 for \$8 24 Shrubs 3 each of 8 different colors \$20
Green Bus, Green or Yellow Ambulance \$5 ea, BBQs 5/\$10

PLASTICVILLE PARTS - \$1.00 ea unless otherwise noted (Reproductions unless noted as original.)

Factory(#1988): original walls, brown platform, Union Station (1958): original walls, roofs, canopies, platforms, steps, Hobo Shack: original walls & roof (brown or dark grey), original rear canopy \$5 (brown or dark grey), original door, original window, Railroad work car: original walls & roof, original canopy \$4, original steps \$2, House Under Construction: shovel, rake, hoe, bucket, Hospital: desk chair, straight chair, 2 Story House: porch post, Fire Dept: red chimney cap, Police Dept: green chimney cap, Turnpike: white lens holder, 2 lenses(Red or Green). Cattle Pen: crossbars
Turnpike: white cones 4/\$3, green sign \$3, Post Office: flag \$5,

PLASTICVILLE PARTS - \$1.50 ea (Reproductions unless noted as original.)

Airport: windsock, Log Cabin: chimney, Hospital: siren, Fire Department: siren
Bank: large or small canopy, House Under Construction: sawhorse (3 pieces)

STORYTOWN PARTS - \$1.00 ea (Reproductions unless noted as original.)

Jack & Jill: pail, Ginger Bread: brick, 3 Men: oar, Old Woman: clothesline, Goosey Gander: castle flag, chain

PLASTICVILLE BUILDING INSERTS \$1.00/SET (Reproductions unless noted as original.)

Corner Store: original Hobby, News, or Sport, Factory: (#1988), original decal, Union Station: original decal, Motel flowers, Large or Small Gas Station, Large or Small Supermarket, 5 & 10 Store, Hardware Store, Post Office, Suburban Station: roof signs (2)

Plastic Village Gazette RARE Issue #1, \$2 each, Issues 5 or 6, \$1 each

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

Shipping: Boxed Plasticville \$7, No Box Plasticville, \$5, Parts, \$4

2019 FIRST QUARTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The 2019 first quarter Executive Committee meeting was called to order on January 7, 2019 at 7:13 Eastern Standard Time by President Chris Matthy. Those in attendance were President Chris Matthy, Vice President Frank Ross, Secretary Treasurer John Niehaus, and Immediate Past President Doug Gilliatt. Absent was founder, Joe Kutza.

Old Business:

20th anniversary piece

Secretary Niehaus reported that a total of 257 Frosty Bars were pre-ordered. He noted that the production Frosty Bars are packed 12 per shipping carton. The 257 pieces would thus comprise 21.4 shipping cartons. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to purchase 264 pieces or 22 full shipping cartons. Secretary Niehaus was instructed to contact Bachmann and place the order.

President Matthy requested that a request for a pre-production color sample be provided if feasible. Secretary Niehaus will address this request when placing the order with Bachmann.

President Matthy suggested that one Frosty Bar be given to the National Toy Train Museum. Secretary Niehaus was asked to contact the museum and determine their interest in receiving such a gift.

Membership dues review

Tabled until after a review of new postage rates that go into effect on January 27.

Transcription of Lee Riley interview of 2012

Secretary Niehaus reported that he could not edit the transcription as only has a PDF file and has no means to convert it to a file that can be edited. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approve authorizing Secretary Niehaus to purchase a program that will convert PDF files to editable files.

Complimentary ePCA membership for volunteers

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to provide a complimentary ePCA membership to any member who volunteers for one of the various volunteer opportunities.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to allow any member who volunteers for one the various volunteer opportunities to upgrade their membership to the current color or black and white membership rates, less the ePCA membership rate of \$8.

Newsletter publisher volunteer

Secretary Niehaus reported that he will contact this volunteer later this month to ensure he still wishes to be the publisher as well as discuss the logistics of publishing and mailing the newsletters.

New Business:

Postage rate increase

Secretary Niehaus reported that new postage rates will go into effect on January 27. First class letter rates will increase by 5 cents to 55 cents for the first ounce but decrease to 15 cents for each additional ounce.

He also noted indications that the postage for mailing the quarterly newsletters will decrease slightly. He is waiting on confirmation of that from the Post Office.

Unsolicited fundraising assistance solicitation

President Matthy received an unsolicited email from a website soliciting their services to help us with fundraising. He forwarded it to Secretary Niehaus for investigation. A discussion between the meeting members at this meeting concluded that outside fundraising services were not needed at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM, Eastern Time
Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus, Secretary/Treasurer



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IT WAS THE BEST OF PACKAGING, IT WAS THE WORST OF PACKAGING



DONALD W. HUOVINEN #11-714

With apologies to Charles Dickens, K-Line had one type of packaging that was truly the best and the worst. I am referring to K-Line's carded packaging. The carded packaging was used primarily for smaller accessories although a number of track components were also carded. When K-Line first cataloged their buildings and accessories in 1981 the smaller accessories were packaged in shrink wrap with a backer board. As time progressed the shrink wrap gave way to a blister pack design where the items are contained between a specially made paperboard card and clear pre-formed plastic. The design of the backer board evolved as K-Line's product line grew. The design of the card was changed to have more sales appeal typically having a better description of the accessory and in later years more color.

As discussed in previous columns a package has two main functions:

- Protection: Protecting the contents from the environment
- Sales: Promotional material placed on the package is intended to attract the potential purchaser's attention and to have a positive impact upon the purchasing decision. In this day of self service, the package plays an especially important role as it may be the only way of directly addressing the consumer.

For the first function, Protection, the carded packaging works very well. The item is sealed in and is tamper proof. As for the second function, Sales, the results are decidedly mixed. This is why it is the best of packaging and the worst of packaging.

As for the best, the item is snugly contained in the shrink wrap or blister pack and the consumer can visually examine the product. The card may be colored to attract the buyer's attention and can have appropriate printing to adequately describe the product.

Photo 1 shows a shrink accessory, the K-4179 Railroad Yard Signs. The signs were left attached to their sprue and display very well. Photo 2 shows a blister pack accessory, K-42308 School Figures and Playground. Each figure is individually packaged in its own preformed blister. In both cases the consumer can see exactly what they were purchasing and the printing is appropriate for the product.

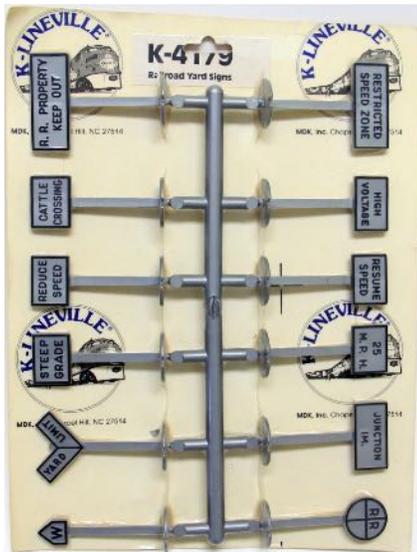


Photo 1 K-4179



Photo 2: K-42308

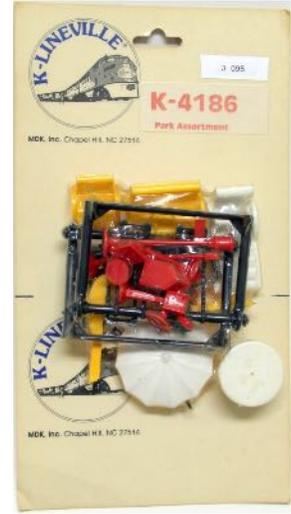


Photo 3: K-4186

As for the worst, well consider Photo 3. This shows a shrink wrapped K-4186 Park Assortment. The Park Assortment has 24 items in it and only a true K-Line product aficionado would know what was included. The item looks like a dog's breakfast. And to make it even worse the Park Assortment was noted in the 1981 Catalog as "available but not pictured". How could a buyer possibly know what they were purchasing? In all fairness it was pictured in the 1982 and subsequent catalogs. I believe because of the difficulty with the shrink wrapped packaging, most accessory packaging was soon changed to the small accessory boxes which had a picture of the included items on the front of the box. This is the box I had described as Box 13. Photo 4 shows the same K-4186 Park Assortment in the small accessory box.

Other shrink wrapped items were between the extremes of the K-4179 Railroad Yard Signs and the K-4186 Park Assortment. For example Photo 5 shows K-4187 Billboards. Not great but not entirely unsatisfactory either.

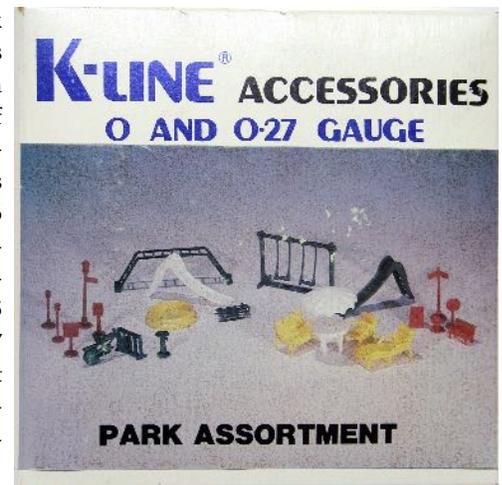


Photo 4: K-4186 Box

Of special note is K-4201 Standard Gauge Figures. As shown in Photo 6, this accessory made the full transition from shrink wrapped card (poor presentation), to small accessory box (better presentation), to blister pack card (best presentation). It is also interesting to note a couple of other things. The figures went from unpainted, to paint them yourself, to already painted. The number of figures

dropped from 15 to 10 in the final version. And the scale changed from Standard Gauge to G Scale.

As always I welcome your additions, corrections or comments. I am especially interested to know if there are any other items packaged in Header Bags than those I have listed. I suspect there are. Please e-mail me at dhuov@aol.com.

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Photo 5: K-4201



Photo 6: K-4187

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PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 301

Lionel HO: The Beginning

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154



A mutual business agreement between Bachmann and Lionel Corp. expanded the availability of Plasticville's HO line. Lionel had already formed two agreements with outside manufacturers like Rivarossi and Athearn to produce their new line of HO trains for 1957 - 58. So, it is possible that, in like manner, Lionel Corp. proposed the plan for starting Lionel HO Plasticville for 1959. It is not known in which executive offices that presentation was made. Lionel would have wanted to be perceived as the dominant manufacturer. For instance, Lionel did not mention in their catalogs that Rivarossi and Athearn had been making their HO trains. Forth coming into the Lionel Plasticville HO deal, the Plasticville trade name remained on the structures and Bachmann's own "Painting Plastic People" instruction sheet was placed in some Lionel HO boxes. Around the same time Lifelike, a fourth hobby manufacturer for Lionel HO, supplied trees, ground cover, and a tunnel. Lifelike received no recognition at all. Bachmann was to also forge a similar arrangement with American Flyer HO, but this chapter will be limited to boxed sets. Bachmann would be ready to supply this new extension to their Plasticville U. S. A. product line. Occam's razor maintains that the simpler explanation is usually the most true one. Lionel probably had boxes sent from one of their own vendors to Bachmann to fill and ship the products.

No. 0410 Suburban Ranch House Set was among the original group of boxed sets made by Bachmann for the 1959 Lionel catalog. Bachmann would have had these ready for the Christmas Season 1958. The set consisted of a grey ranch house, 5 press together pine trees, and only two telephone poles. The set was packaged in a Late Classic Lionel box with an instruction page. The box measured at $7 \frac{3}{8} \times 3 \frac{3}{4} \times 1 \frac{1}{4}$ inches. These Lionel boxes were made to open at the top. The tree limbs were attached to three sprues, but the trunks were not on a sprue. The house was packaged in a heat sealed cellophane bag.

No. 0411 Figure Set with Switchman's Shanty, cataloged in 1959, consisted of 12 adult townspeople and railroad characters, a watchman's shanty with no accessories, plus painting fluid, palette and a brush. Economizing was done for all Lionel Plasticville sets, for instance a crossing shanty building but no gate was called a watchman's shanty by Lionel. The set was packaged in a Late Classic Lionel box with an instruction page (note: Lionel Plasticville instruction pages are just black and white copies of a photograph of each built up scene with no background, and then sent out to a printer). The box size was the same as the 0410. The painting fluid was secured by a raised insert with a press in cutout for the neck of the bottle.

No. 0412 Farm Set, cataloged in 1959, consisted of a white barn, a white Cape Cod house, and 16 fowl and domestic animals. Due to economizing it is interesting to note that neither the farmer HO figure nor any citizen was provided in this set. In point of fact, the 0411 had included only 12 adult citizens which left over

12 more unused children and unused ladies for the year 1959 manufacturing process. That was inefficient. To remedy this, Bachmann had the ability to either blank off molds, or they could have just set the unused figures aside for salvage. The set was packaged in a Late Classic Lionel box measuring $7 \frac{3}{8} \times 5 \frac{3}{8} \times 1 \frac{3}{4}$ inches, with an instruction page. The box was made to open from the top. This box type and size was used for many HO, and O scale, Lionel Plasticville sets and will be called "the original type and size box". The six fowl were attached on to a tiny sprue and the larger animals were attached on to a second sprue. The small parts for the barn and the house were contained in a crisp heat sealed cellophane bag. The fowl were attached to a tiny sprue and the other domestic animals were attached to a second sprue.

No. 0413 Railroad Structure Set, cataloged in 1959, contained a cracker box style freight station, a water tower, a switch tower, and 4 telephone poles. The set was packaged in a Late Classic Lionel box measuring $7 \frac{3}{8} \times 6 \times 3$ inches, with an instruction page. The box was deep enough to hold the water tower's main body.

No. 0414 Village Set, cataloged in 1959, consisted of a glue together Paramount Theatre (spelled on the building like the King's English), and a Plasticville fire station. The theater was originally produced by Beemak Village. The set was accessorized with a full complement of the 24 different citizens with paint fluid, palette, and brush, plus 4 telephone poles and 4 press together pine trees. The set was packaged in a large Late Classic Lionel box, measuring $10 \frac{1}{2} \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{3}{4}$ inches, with an instruction page, and a raised insert for the paint fluid bottle. The citizens and the theater were packaged in two heat sealed cellophane bags. The fire station front wall was laid in the box by itself, however the rest of the building was packaged in a third crisp heat sealed cellophane bag. The trees were on their sprues. This set makes a very attractive build up, but it is very difficult to acquire.



No 0415 Cape Cod Set, cataloged in 1960, is the most commonly found of any HO scale, or O scale, Lionel Plasticville boxed set.

It is often found in mint condition. The set consisted of a white Cape Cod house with porch, 12 sections of fence and gate, lawn furniture, two shrubs, two press together pine trees, two telephone poles and only one figure. Many Cape Cod sets seem to include the waving house wife, but at least one mint set contained other figures instead. The set's production ran for more than two years, and substitutions appear to have been made. One such mint set was acquired in the 1980's which contained the West Philly High quarterback. The set was packaged in the original type and size box, with an instruction page (which only pictures half the fence). The pine tree sections were attached to a long sprue, but the trunks were placed individually, along with the house walls three roofs, patio floor, figure and phone poles. The fence was packaged in a crisp heat sealed cellophane bag, and the small house and patio parts were packed into a second smaller bag.

No. 0416 Station Set, cataloged in 1960, contained a suburban station, a block signal, a crossing signal, two telephone poles, plus 12 citizens, with paint fluid, palette, and brush. The half complement of the citizens in the 0416 was the selection which does not include railroad characters. The citizens represent travelers with children. If these figures were the left overs from the 0411, then they would have been waiting at the station for about a year. In future chapters the selection of citizens found in the 0416 will be termed as selection "A", and the complement which



includes railroad characters will be termed as selection "B". The set was packaged in the original type and size box, with instructions, and an insert to secure the paint fluid bottle. A Bachmann "Painting Plastic People" instruction sheet was also enclosed. The citizens were enclosed in a crisp heat sealed cellophane bag.

No. 0417 Farm Set, cataloged in 1960, contained a barn, a Cape cod house with porch, 16 fowl and domestic animals and the left handed lady. The barn was the tuscan color variation, and the



house was white. The set was packaged in the original type and size box with an instruction page. The Cape cod parts, and small barn parts were enclosed in two crisp heat sealed cellophane bags. The fowl and the larger animals were attached to separate sprues just like the set 0412 had been.

No. 0418 Industrial Area Set, cataloged in 1960, was a very striking track side build up and is comparatively easy to acquire. The set consisted of a factory, a large gas station with pumps and automobile, and only two telephone poles. The pumps are unpainted. The set was packaged in a large Late Classic Lionel box measuring 7 1/2 x 6 x 3 inches, with instructions.



No 0419 Rail Junction Set, cataloged in 1960, contained a cracker box style freight station, signal tower, cooling station, 6 telephone poles, block signal, a

crossing signal with no gate, and railroad characters with no paint. This is another very attractive set. If this particular set had been packaged in a more imaginative display style box, then the Lionel Plasticville line of products could have had the potential to become more popular. But Lionel Corp. had always relied on their annual catalog to picture their products. Their clientele were model railroaders who shopped by making their list, and not like the dime store impulsive buyers for whom Bachmann was well planned. This set's packaging characteristics remain undetermined.

The story of Lionel Plasticville was primarily about packaging and economizing. Who was the associate that selected the sets' components? For which company did he work? Who directed the crude sketch on each instruction sheet? Was he an outside vendor? At the very least, the methods that those associates employed did not match anything like the finished quality of Bachmann's own HO boxed sets. The box style and the box material which Lionel chose was just to inadequate. But if Bachmann was truly the packing and shipping department for these sets, then they were careful to always combine the structure's small parts within each set in a protective bag, and when possible, leave accessories attached to their sprues. Bachmann also used protective bags for entire Lionel HO structures which, until now had never needed to be bagged. Bachmann had always used trays for their own product line. None the less, Bachmann had already made the move to use sturdy 4 color lift off boxes for their own line of products. The new flimsy boxes which Lionel Corp. provided were one step backwards in time. The strange compilation of incomplete accessory units within a Lionel Plasticville set, and especially about the O scale group, was also incongruous. But what counts in business is the bottom line. The bottom line is the first sentence of this chapter.

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GREENBERG'S 2019 POCKET PRICE GUIDES

JOHN NIEHAUS #00-03

With everything going on in my life this past year it seems that I failed to review the Lionel price guide for 2018. There was a new guide for Lionel only last year. As my failure is now "water over the dam" let's take a look at the guides for 2019.

Kalmbach published 2019 guides for both Lionel and American. Absent again this year is a guide for Marx. My records seem to indicate that there has not been a new Marx guide since 2011. I can only surmise that either the market is extremely steady or it was decided that the cost to publish a new guide would not be recovered through sales.

The Lionel guide is now 140 pages. It is 15/16 inch thick. The Flyer guide is just a bit shy of 1/2 inch thick and 144 pages.

All I can say about the values of the Lionel pieces that I track is that they are almost identical to that of those in the 2018 edition.

The only difference in values in the pieces that I track is the type B 2343C B unit. The Excellent condition value of it increased a modest \$9 from \$183 to \$192. Every other piece that I track retained its 2018 value.

The values for the American Flyer pieces that I track were a bit more active compared to the 2017 guide. Note that there was no American Flyer guide published for 2018. My list of pieces tracked is quite shorter than that of Lionel at five pieces. I would entertain any suggestions as to what pieces to add to the list.

The 342(a) NKP 0-8-0 switcher and the 477/478 chromed PA/PB set retained their values in both the Good and Excellent condition categories. The 377/78 T&P GP7 diesel retained its Good value while the Excellent value rose from \$383 to \$392. The 21004 PRR 0-6-0 switcher was a mixed bag. It gained \$55 in Good condition but lost \$50 in Excellent condition. The values are listed as \$170 and \$294 respectively. The Santa Fe PA/PB/PA set retained its Good value at \$215 but took a \$65 hit from \$584 to \$519 in Excellent condition.

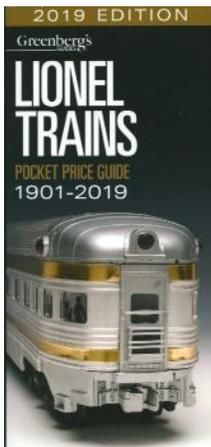
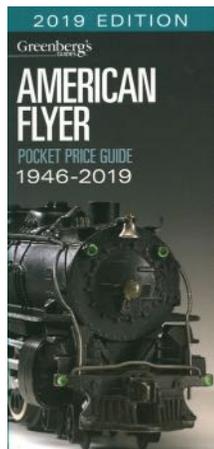
Looking back at previous values in my chart it seems that values have gradually, but slowly, dropped over the last four or five years for pre-war and postwar Lionel while the MPC and newer pieces are retaining their values during that same time.

It is a little more difficult for me to compare American Flyer values as they seem to have fluctuated quite a bit since I started tracking their values back in 2013.

My suggestion is to enjoy your trains but have a Greenberg's handy just in case you want to add to your rosters.

The 2019 guides are available from Kalmbach Books, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI, 53186. They are listed on their website: www.kalmbachstore.com. Their U.S. toll free number is 800-533-6644 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The phone number if you are calling from Canada or outside the U.S. is 262-796-8776 Ext. 421.

The Lionel guide is priced is \$21.99. American Flyer guide is priced at \$15.99. Oddly enough both are listed on Amazon at those same prices.



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A HISTORY OF PLASTICVILLE: PART V 1953

TOM FRITSCH #01-4

Editors note: Tom has provided a very detailed and lengthy description of Plasticville. His awesome article will appear in *The Villager* in installments over the next several issues.

FLAGPOLE (FP-5, 1027, 45611, 45612, 45614)

The Flagpole was first raised in 1953. It was designed from the Flagpole in front of Bachmann Brothers in Philadelphia. The Flagpole came only in white and maintained its forty-eight star flag until its demise in 1962, despite the fact that Alaska and Hawaii became states in 1959. The Flagpole was reissued in 1997 in gray with a flag sticker depicting 50 stars. The later issued was never released alone, but was included with the #45611 School House, the #45612 Trailer Park w/Flagpole and the #45614 Town Hall.

CHURCH (CC-9, 1600, 1818, 1933, 5600, 45933)

This church is the most common of the five different churches that Bachmann produced. Sometimes referred to as the Parish Church, the white and gray church was numbered CC-9 when it was released in 1953. "Color inserts add stained-glass effects to the Gothic window grouping." It also included a red paper door insert. The #1818 version omitted the paper "stained glass" and door. The instructions included with #45933 were numbered #1933.

As soon as the CC-9 Church was offered, the small CC-7 and CC-8 Churches were discontinued. The timing was good, since Plasticville was about to meet some stiff competition from a newcomer called Littletown, who would offer a big and beautiful red brick church with four pillars in front (later to become Plasticville's #1803 Colonial Church).

In 1952, Bachmann had bought out the plastic line of buildings from the Skyline Manufacturing Co. of Philadelphia. The purchase was apparently for the church, as Bachmann never did market the two houses that were produced by Skyline. (There were only three plastic buildings ever produced by Skyline.) Rather than simply reissue the new church as it was, Bachmann re-tooled the front, giving the Church a larger front door, but sacrificing the size of the clerestory window. The back of the two churches are identical, except that the Plasticville Church has a small cut-out in the bottom for lighting. Bachmann also fitted it with a new pattern of stained glass window inserts. The Plasticville Church is white, while the Skyline version was cream in color. In their 1960-1961 catalogs, Bachmann used the Skyline model, with the larger window, in their illustration.

Bachmann issued a "Spirit of Christmas" Mantle Set (#1225) around 1954 or 1955, which used this Church assembled on a Styrofoam base. Included with this set were "molded in color people" from the Plasticville Citizens. These people were molded in various colors and have a peg glued to their base to permit them to be inserted into the Styrofoam. Also included were two Spruce Trees and Shrubs that had attached pegs. The Lionel "Town Set" #987, issued in 1962, included a Church, Bank, Corner Store, large Gas Station, one blue Automobile, twelve Street Signs, five Telephone Poles.

Timco, a New York based importing company, issued a lighted Plasticville church as #870. They installed a bracket on the back wall to hold a light socket. The church was glued except for the steeple top, so it would fit into the box.

PLASTICVILLE CITIZENS (PF-4, 1605, 1619, 1915, 1955, 15988, 45988)

The Plasticville Citizens were issued in 1953 as "Plastic People" (PF-4). The kit came with sixteen assorted "flesh"-colored people and a paint set that included six paint pellets on a pallet, Plasticville USA paint brush and paint fluid. The first fluid supplied by Bachmann was Trichloroethylene (C2HCL3). This version came in a bottle with a cork stopper and went by the trade name "Trilene." On the instruction sheet with the earliest paint kits, a notice states, "When bottle of painting fluid is empty, use Carbona Cleaning Fluid." Carbona is generally known as Carbon Tetrachloride. This paint set later accompanied the Roadside Stand.

The only time that the original 16 citizens were named was in the 1955 "Panoramic Catalog." They were identified as: clergyman, couple on Bench, farmer (with bucket), girl and doll, housewife (with basket), jr miss (straight skirt), milkman, newsboy, nurse (with flowers), policeman, postman, schoolboy, serviceman (with oil cans) teacher (pleated skirt, gloves) and visitor (man with hat). In 1955, the inhabitants became Plasticville Citizens, and eight former residents of Littletown moved into town. These new citizens were conductor with baggage, engineer, man tipping hat, man with lantern, man with lunch bucket, man with suitcase, sitting man with outstretched arm and sitting woman waving. Sometimes called railroad people or "fat people," these eight citizens were dropped in 1966 and thirty-two figures (two each of the original sixteen people) came in each unit. In 1997, "Railroad People With Paint & Brush" was issued as #45988. It included 23 of the former-Littletown railroad people, some two of each and some three. Plasticville Citizens were included with several of the "Scenic Classics" in the early 1980s: #1983 Colonial Mansion, #1984 Colonial Church, #1985 Log Cabin Retreat, #1986 New England Rancher and #1988 Factory.

Bachmann issued a Church Mantle Set (#1225-240) around 1954 or 1955, which used the Parish Church assembled on a Styrofoam base. Included with this set were "molded in color people" from the Plasticville Citizens: clergyman, housewife, junior miss, nurse and visitor. These people were molded in various colors and have a peg glued to their base to permit them to be inserted into the Styrofoam. A variety of "molded in color people" have also been found with standard bases.

Bachmann never remade all of the Littletown people that they acquired in 1957. Several figures were left to go into obscurity. A little boy in a cowboy outfit, a store proprietor, a policeman with raised hand, a lady with a wide-brimmed hat and parasol and several others were never made by Bachmann. It is theorized that Bachmann intended to re-issue more Littletown figures, but dropped the idea. There is evidence to that possibility on a painting on the box for the #1705 Bermuda Ranch House. In

the painting is a young girl in a dress, bending over slightly, with both hands on her knees. It is an exact copy of a Littletown girl. She has the same hair, bobby socks and puffy-shouldered short-sleeved dress. The two seem too identical to be a coincidence. The Littletown figure was obviously used as a model for the box painting.

Lionel issued the #952 30-piece "Figure Set" in 1958 which included Plasticville Citizens, Fire Hydrant, Fire Alarm Box and Mailboxes. From 1959 through 1962 it became #953 "Figure Set" with 32 pieces and a paint brush.

POST OFFICE (PO-1, 1602)

The Post Office was released in 1953 under the designation of PO-1. The #1602 box, released in 1958, is scarce. "The face of this impressive structure is finished in official Post Office gray, topped off with Old Glory flying at full mast. Cardboard window inserts dramatize typical P.O. activities." The front white-based "glow in the dark" lights on the Post Office are shared by the School House, Police Department and Bank. The clear front door is identical to the one used on the large Super Market, Bank, TV Station and Factory. The Post Office also features the same walls and roofs as the 5 and 10 Cent Store, Hardware and Pharmacy, large Super Market and large Gas Station. The only difference is that the Post Office roof has a hole (and underlying peg) for a flag. The Post Office roof is generally gray in color, but a rare red-roofed version also exists. It is believed by some that the

red roof may have been intended for the 5 and 10 Cent Store, but the wrong mold (with a hole) was inadvertently used.

The Lionel "Post Office Set" #967, introduced in 1958, included a Post Office, Mailbox, Citizens, Benches, Signs, Street Lamp, Traffic Signal and three Automobiles (red, yellow, green).

HARDWARE AND PHARMACY (DH-2, 1611)

This building, released in 1953, came with a black front and tan walls. The roof and doors were colored silver. This is the only building that Bachmann produced that was black in color. The #1611 box, issued in 1964, is very rare and is highly prized by collectors. Bachmann also changed the name on the box from "Hardware and Pharmacy" to "Drug & Hardware Store." The Hardware and Pharmacy features the same walls and roofs as the 5 and 10 Cent Store, Post Office, large Super Market and large Gas Station. Only the front wall and the colors are different. A replacement Drug Store was issued in 1971.

5 AND 10 CENT STORE (CS-5, 1612)

This is probably the most straightforward of the structure kits that Bachmann manufactured. It was released in 1953. The CS-5 designation presumably stood for "Chain Store." All buildings have tan walls, red roof and doors and three window inserts. A gray roofed, black lettered version has also been reported. Cardboard window inserts depict items for sale within the store. The 5 and 10 Cent Store features the same walls and roofs as the Post



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Office, large Super Market, Hardware and Pharmacy and large Gas Station. Only the front wall and the colors are different. The #1612 catalog number was never manufactured.

LARGE SUPER MARKET (SM-7, 1613)

The large Super Market joined the Plasticville line in 1953 under the designation of SM-7. In 1958, Bachmann issued the more colorful #1613 box to house this structure. This box is seen less frequently than the more common SM-7. There is one color

variation with this Super Market: instead of the more common black lettering on the front and a brown roof, this variation has red lettering and a red roof. "Interesting window-displayed 'bargains' are achieved with fitted cardboard inserts." The large Super Market features the same walls and roofs as the 5 and 10 Cent Store, Hardware and Pharmacy, Post Office and large Gas Station. The clear front door is identical to the one used on the Post Office, Bank, TV Station and Factory.

K-LINE KRONICLES

#K-4091 Firehouse

ED BERG #02-123



I guess you can say that the Marx/K-Line Firehouse is every bit as iconic for us toy train types, than any of its other Marxville brethren. But how many plastic village buildings have been copied by other manufacturers? Here we see Keystone's much larger (and much better suited for full-on O-gauge or O-scale) No. 247 Fire Station.



Alright, there are differences of course between the two but the similarities are too great to ignore. However, I must offer a caveat here. Did Marx copy Keystone or was it the other way around? Also, could the real life station have been in close proximity to both Marx and Keystone designers such that they both felt it worthy of copying? I just don't know

When I bought my sample it was still New-In-Box but there was a couple of things which were a little odd. First, the finish of the red walls has a bright glossy luster to it. Generally speaking, the K-Line reissues had a duller finish, perhaps as the result of the tooling beginning to wear and might be hard to detect unless one

has a similar Marx building to place side-by-side. The difference can be likened to paints that are a glossy finish vs. an egg shell finish. But not this building; it is every bit as bright and shiny as an original Marx building.



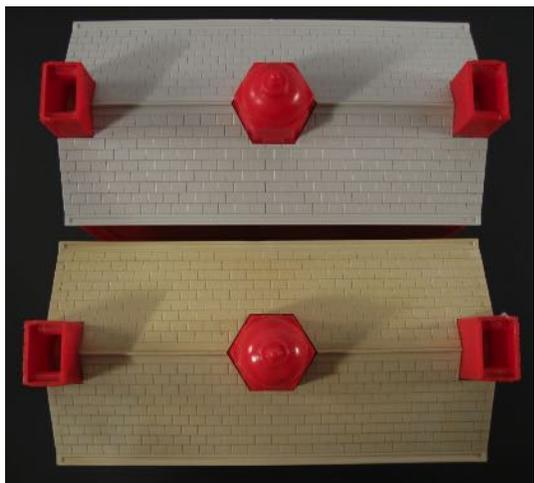
Second, some of the color is 'wrong'. The gray roof/doors/windows/fire truck are a funny 'off' looking dirty tannish-grayish hue. At the time, being new to collecting K-Line, I at first thought it was supposed to be the proper color. But then I saw this discoloration effect playing out on another K-Line building. On that building one could clearly see a portion of the proper gray color while the rest of the grays were becoming discolored.

Last, the fire truck's molding is every bit as clear and distinct as the original Marx versions. Again, generally speaking, the K-Line fire trucks have rather indistinct details. They simply don't 'pop' as on the originals, again, due to tooling wear-and-tear.

ACCESSORIES

The accessories include the Police and Fire Station Accessories Mold Group (old Marx Mold Group PL 543) which consist of:

1. Lamp post
2. Street sign
3. Parking meter
4. Police call box
5. Mail box
6. 'FIRE ZONE' sign
7. 'STOP' sign
8. Trash can
9. Bench



10. Fire hydrant

Additional Accessory: Fire Truck, one piece hard plastic.



FIGURES, 35mm SP:

1. Fire Chief
2. Fireman w/hose
3. Fireman running
4. Little boy walking, wearing fireman's helmet, holding boots (often listed inaccurately as a *man* with boots)
5. Dog (Dalmatian)

K-Line Logo Location: No logo is present.

Enjoy!

Ed "ICE" Berg, Las Vegas, NV

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Charles Siegel is president and buyer for Train City, Inc.

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WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

Enclosed is a check for \$.... for 3 years (dues). I'm sure in the next 3 years that postage will be going up. The extra money is to help cover the added expense. I appreciate the PCA offers the Villager in color. Ken Welker #11=720 *Ken seems to have had a sixth sense when he made his check out for more than the actual dues. The postage rates for letters and newsletters all changed on January 28 of this year and actually decreased slightly.*

Usually I collect O-gauge. I saw some HO Plasticville buildings at a show and they were so cute, I bought the lot. Most were smaller copies of buildings I already had. One was not familiar to me: Paramount Theater and Paramount Drugs. Is anyone familiar with it? Michael W Frank #02-189. *What you have is HO catalog number 2607. It was first catalogued in the 1958 HO catalog with an announcement bubble next to it noting it as new. It was last listed in the 1963 catalog. It should be noted that this piece was initially a Beemak Village Movie Corner, catalog number 3, by Beemak Plastics. It is presumed that sometime in the early to mid fifties Bachmann acquired the rights to use or the outright ownership of the mold as well as other Beemak molds.*

... I saw a listing on eBay for a PV diner and phone booth. I think it was listed by fellow PCA member I did enter a bid but did

not win it. I'm thinking the high bidder might have been more interested in the phone booth. It was yellow. Jerry Williams, #04-256. *The phone booth is a Model Power product. Volume 12 number 3 of The Villager contained an article on this piece and its inclusion in Model Power's carded stock number 6061 Park Scenes assortment. The photo submitted by Jerry in his message to the PCA is copyrighted and could not be used without permission. The photo used to illustrate Jerry's message is the one provided by Louis Leppert and included in Louis' article published in Volume 9 Number 3 of The Villager.*

NOTE: all previous issues of The Villager are available in the Members section of the website for downloading and viewing.

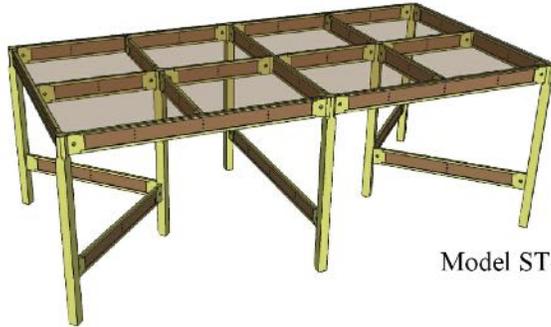


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THE PARTS BIN - A PCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

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

Miscellaneous Window Inserts	Large Super Market	HO Cape Cod House
Misc doors & windows	Loading Platform	HO Cathedral
12-A Railroad & Street Signs	Log Cabin	HO Cattle Pen
Airport Administration Building	Mobile Home	HO Coaling Station
Airport Hangar	Motel	HO Contemporary House
Apartment House	New England Rancher	HO Factory
Auburn Log Cabin	Picket Fence	HO Fire House
Bank	Platform Fence	HO Gas Station
BN-1 Barn	Playground Equipment	HO Hardware Pharmacy
Bridge & Pond	Police Station	HO Hobby Shop
Bungalow	Post Office	HO House Under Construction
Cape Cod	Railroad Work Car	HO Motel
Cathedral	Ranch House	HO New Car Showroom
Cattle Pen	Roadside Stand	HO Police Station
CC7 & 8 Church	Rustic Fence	HO Post Office
CC-9 Church	Rustic Gate	HO Railroad Work Car
Chain Store (5&10)	School House	HO Ranch House
Coaling Tower	Signal Bridge	HO School House
Colonial Church	Small Gas Station	HO Signal Bridge
Colonial Mansion	Small Super Market	HO Split Level
Corner Store	Split Level	HO Suburban Station
Covered Bridge	ST-1 Street Accessories	HO Super Market
Crossing Gate	Station Platform	HO Switch Tower
Dairy Barn	Suburban Station	HO TV Station
Diner	Switch Tower	HO Union Station
Drug Store	Telephone Poles	
Factory	Town Hall	K-Line Chicken Coop
Farm Buildings	Trestle Bridge	K-Line Church
Fire House	Turnpike Interchange	K-Line L-Shaped Ranch
Footbridge	TV Station	K-Line Ranch House
Frosted Flakes Billboard	Two Story House	K-Line Two Story House
Frosty Bar	Union Station	
Greenhouse	Watchman's Shanty	Littletown Barn
Hardware & Pharmacy	Water Tank	Littletown Cape Cod
Hobo Shacks	Windmill	Littletown Church
Hospital	Wishing Well	Littletown Corner Store
House Fence		Littletown Gas Station
House Under Construction	HO Bank	Littletown General Store
Large Gas Station	HO Barn	Littletown Loading Platform

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.

A



Available parts continued from the previous page.

-
- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Littletown Ranch - glued | Marx L Ranch House |
| Littletown RR Station | Marx Railroad Station |
| Littletown School House | Marx Ranch House |
| Littletown Southern Colonial House | Marx RR & Street signs |
| Littletown Super Market | Marx Rustic Fence |
| Littletown Telephone Poles | Marx School House |
| | Marx Supermarket |
| Marx 3-rail fence | Marx Telephone Poles |
| Marx Accessories | |
| Marx Barn | Skyline Church |
| Marx Church | Skyline Ranch |
| Marx Colonial House | |
| Marx Factory | Lionel RR & Street Signs |
| Marx Firehouse | MISC street & rr signs |
| Marx General Store | |



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

Rail Transportation Stamp Album – North, Central, and South America stamp album, Part 1. 1869-2017. 53 pages, 10 × 11 ½, \$59.99. Punched for three-ring binder or the Scott specialty binder. Published by Amos Media.

This is the first time to my knowledge that Amos Media or anyone else has published a topical album for Rail Transportation. This is also the first time that Amos Media has printed the illustrations of the stamps in an album in color. Every stamp illustrated is in the same color as that of the issued stamp. Impressive!

There are nineteen countries represented as well as the United Nations, New York. The pages do not include every stamp related to rail transportation. Those not represented are the more expensive issues.

The first six pages are dedicated to United States railroad related stamps. The page following the United States pages contains all three of the United Nations, New York stamps. Canada is represented by four pages, including one page for Newfoundland. The remaining countries are represented by one to seven pages. There are also three blank pages for adding future rail transportation related stamps.

The American Topical Association, www.americantopicalassn.org, has a list of railroad related stamps. It is available to members at no cost other than membership. This may be a good avenue to extend this album beyond those stamps illustrated. A one year membership is \$35.

I recommend this album if you want to add a different way of collecting trains whether you are a philatelist or otherwise. Filling the pages should be relatively easy and inexpensive, especially if you decide to fill the album with used stamps.

Pennsylvania Railroad Locomotives, Photo Archive: Steam, Diesel, & Electric, Revised Second Edition, John Kelly, 126 pages, Softcover, 10 ¼ × 8 ½, \$36.95, published by Enthusiast Books, black & white photos throughout.

The title pretty much sums up the contents of this book. Every page is a single photo of a Pennsylvania locomotive with a few calendar and schedule covers added in. Each photo is generously captioned as well as providing photo attributions where the photo is not part of the author's collection.

The book contains four chapters. The first three chapters are separated out, as can be expected into steam locomotives, passenger and freight diesels, and, of course passenger and freight electric locomotives. The passenger and freight locomotive section includes photos of some of the "sharks", "centipedes", and "shifters". A "shifter" was the name given to yard switchers.

What about the fourth chapter? The last chapter is dedicated to the industrial designer Raymond Loewy. He was probably the most well known locomotive designer and responsible for the

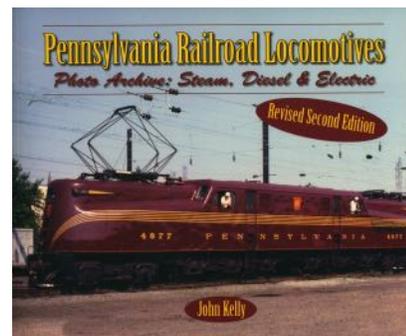
The Rail Transportation Stamp Album can be purchased directly from Amos media at www.amosadvantage.com. Type in Rail transportation and press the search button to be taken directly to the listings for the album. The pages as well as a pages and binder set are listed on this page.



design of the Pennsy S1 and S2 locomotives as well as the "smoothing of the sides" of the GG1s.

All in all this is a very well done photo archive type book. It should be a great reference if you have more than a passing interest in Pennsylvania railroad's locomotives.

Pennsylvania Railroad Locomotives Is available through Enthusiast Books' website at www.enthusiastbooks.com. The list price is \$39.95. I found it on Barnes & Noble's website for \$33.26. The first edition was listed on Amazon's website but not this edition.



Florida East Coast Railway, Seth H Bramson, 95 pages, soft-bound, 6 ½ × 9 ¼ format, \$22.99, published by Arcadia Publishing. Over 150 color and black & white photographs throughout.

Although I am a Midwesterner I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the Florida East Coast Railway. A trivia fact: The Florida East Coast Railway has never been named the Florida East Coast Railroad, always the Florida East Coast Railway.

As with most books this one starts out with a single page foreword, a single page of acknowledgements, and slightly over a page of introduction. The next page is a reproduction of a formal portrait of the railway's founder, Henry Flagler.

This book is another of Arcadia Publishing's photo essay books. The majority of each chapter is heavily captioned photos, timetables, tickets, and other related items. As I am a stamp collector I enjoyed seeing the included envelopes with Railway Post Office cancels. The author notes that the TR, followed by a number, in the cancel relates to the train number on which the mail was being carried. The TR actually notes the RPO trip number on a specific route. The number was incremented by one each time the RPO car made a trip.

Each of the seven chapters has a single page introduction. The chapters include a history of the founder, Henry Flagler as well as the expansion down the East Coast of Florida to Miami. There

Lionel Mechanical Trains, 1931 to 1937, Richard T Claus, 119 pages, softcover, 9 ½ × 8, \$29.95, self-published. Color photos and charts throughout.

I have not had an opportunity to read a book dedicated solely to Lionel mechanical trains before so I thought I would give this one a go. It is loaded with information and excellent photos.

The first chapter is six pages of "traffic light" charts listing every known piece of Lionel Clockwork trains and accessories listed by each year. It also includes Ives accessories manufactured in Irvington, NJ. The "traffic lights" for each accessory or set denote the color of the various pieces and not the rarity. I must compliment the author on not attaching a rarity or monetary value to any of the pieces.

The next three chapters cover locomotives, motors, and tenders, freight cars, and passenger cars. Each chapter begins with a chart of the known pieces organized by year, piece number, and notes. The chapter related to locomotives, motors, and tenders also lists the correct tender number as well as related notes. The charts are followed by photographs of the various pieces and again with annotations as applicable. There are some exploded views of motors where this may be critical in identifying a specific vintage motor.

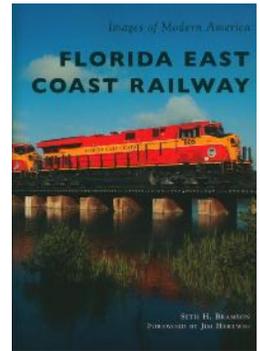
Although I would not personally consider a set as an accessory there is a chapter on them under a major section of the book with the title Accessories. It contains photos of boxed freight and passenger sets. This section also includes chapters on Ives signals (Irvington production), track, stations, water tank & tunnel, and signal & signal sets.

Are you a toy train paper appreciator? If you are then you may be interested in the next major section: Catalogs and Sets by Year. Each year begins with a synopsis of how many sets were

is a chapter on the boom of the 1920's, the depression, and the need to reduce the size of the system. At one time Flagler intended to build a line from Jacksonville to Miami/St Petersburg. Diesels, streamliners, and the attempt to lure passengers is addressed in another of the chapters. There a few pages of company publicity photos taken by Henry M Wolfe, a renowned photographer. The FEC has lived through a strike, a centennial, bankruptcy and receivership and this is addressed in one of the chapters. The last chapter brings the reader up to date on the workings of this admired railroad.

The author mentions that there is another book available from Arcadia Publishing in their Images of Rail series entitled Florida East Coast Railway. It is my hope to acquire a copy of it to accompany this book. I enjoyed reading this book and am sure that you will also.

Florida East Coast Railway is available directly from Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com. It is also available on Amazon in new condition for a little over \$13 plus shipping. It is listed on the Barnes & Noble website at \$20.69.



offered and significant other information related to that specific year. It is followed by a scan of the catalog pages for the year followed by photos of the actual sets.

What about handcars? This book does an excellent job of

representing those pieces. It devotes ten pages to them starting with a "traffic light" listing of all pieces. It then illustrates the motor used on the Donald Duck handcar as well as on the other three handcars. A second illustration shows the differences between the three motor variations. What really caught my eye was a 1934 single sheet flyer from Lionel offering dealers an electrified version of the Mickey & Minnie handcar, "for demonstration purposes only". I had not been aware of such a piece until reading this book. A picture of one of these pieces follows the flyer.

This book definitely increased my knowledge of Lionel mechanical trains. I recommend it if you are interested in a book that is easy to read with more than enough photos to help you correctly identify Lionel mechanical train components.

Lionel Mechanical Trains, 1931 to 1937 is available directly from the author. Send your order to R.T. Claus, PO Box 716, Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437.



THE VILLAGER CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Ending August 2018

MINT SEALED O/B Independence Hall #2921, asking \$100.00, shipping \$5.00. I have a second clock tower for Independence Hall, \$10.00, free shipping. #09-586 Sylvester Jordan Jr. 1120 Hwy 107, Quitman, AR 72131-8932 Ph. 870-656-3931.

WANTED

Ending May 2019

Plasticville 1953 HO catalog, HO-A. It is a separate HO catalog. It is not part of the 1953 O/S catalog. Smokestack for Littletown #111 Loading Platform need light grey one. #00-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 johnln@netins.net.

Ending August 2019

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

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FOR TRADE: My marbled water tank, hobo shacks, watchman's shanty, and railroad work car pieces. Pieces you need for what I need. #00-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 johnln@netins.net.

FOR TRADE: Your citizens molded in color for my citizens molded in color. #11-682 Matt Harvazinski, 4115 W. Ave. J7, Lancaster CA, 93536. Ph. 518-421-1130 villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

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- Do you have buildings or parts that you would like to trade?
- Do you have buildings or parts that you want but don't seem to be available on Internet auction sites or at train meets?

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

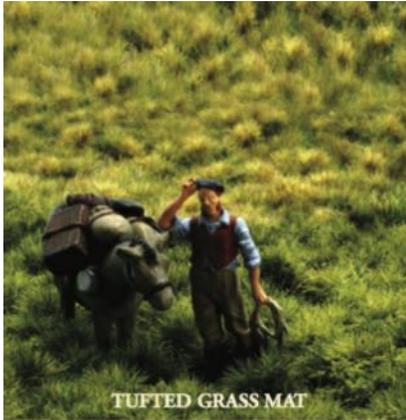


The Villager is looking for new contributors. Contact the editor to find out how to participate and share your knowledge.

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.

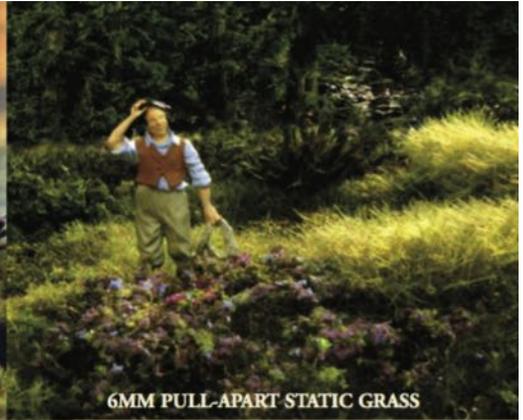




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DARK GREEN
Item No. 31032



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
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