



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 18

June 2019

Number 2

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nominations are now being accepted for the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The Executive Committee has agreed to split the office of Secretary/Treasurer into two separate offices, provided that a nomination for both the offices of Secretary and Treasurer are received for the 2020-2021 officer's term.

Do not hesitate to nominate yourself if you feel that you can fill one of the offices. Feel free to contact the current officer holding the office that you are considering for self nomination if you feel that you need more information related to the duties of that office. Rest assured that if you are elected that the outgoing officers will assist in any way they can to their utmost.

Nominations are to be sent via email to president@plasticvilleusa.org or by U.S. Mail to President, Plasticville Collectors Association, 105 Dietrich Lane, Cresco, PA 18326-8001. Nominations must be received via email or post-marked no later than September 15, 2019.

We must stress that the current officers do not intend to run for reelection. It is critical that new people assume the duties of these offices. A lack of nominees will, more than likely, change the format of our Association.

THE FUTURE OF THE PCA AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

JOE KUTZA – FOUNDER

There will always be an interest in Plasticville and plastic villages. Even now, the interest comes from multiple elements – using, collecting, and historical. The fact that Bachmann is still making Plasticville, and that the PCA has a robust membership reflects on the first two interests. The third, historical, represents a changing world. The ubiquitous passenger trains that were once part of the USA are now more of a novelty, and often better known in the context of subways although passenger trains still rule throughout Europe. This all leads to the demographics of our wonderful hobby. The hobby is dominated by aging men. That's not a bad or a good thing, it is a simple fact. Note that I specifically said "dominated" meaning that I recognize there is some diversity, it's just limited. Perhaps the most optimistic among us believe that interest in our hobby is cyclical. At the tender age of 53, perhaps my story is representative of the future... I grew up with a train set under our Christmas tree every year. We most likely did so because my

father remembers having a train under his tree. But once I moved onto college and started my own life, it was many years before I thought about our Christmas layout, before I started looking to build my village and "rediscovered" Plasticville and made it into one of my passions. Will it be the same for my two sons? As they start out, moving from place to place, with limited funds, and other areas of interest – when they eventually "settle down" whatever that looks like for Generation Z and beyond, will they remember dad's 4' x 40' holiday layout and look to build one of their own? Maybe. But even if that is a yes, will they become Plasticville enthusiasts, or just the occasional user?

I was going to start my next set of thoughts by saying that the PCA is at a crossroads. But that's not true; the PCA has passed through the crossroads and is well along its way to the future and has all but left us behind, trying to figure out what just happened. We are a small organization, but regardless of size,

continued on reverse

The Villager

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www.plasticvilleusa.org

President: Chris Matthy

Vice President: Frank Ross

Secretary/Treasurer: John L Niehaus

Webmaster: John L. Niehaus

Newsletter Editor: Matthew Harvazinski

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each organization requires quite a bit of effort to maintain. For us, that effort has come from a small handful of volunteers with the greatest amount of time, effort, and responsibility coming from John Niehaus. After 20 years, our 5-member Executive Committee is made up of 3 of the original officers – John, Doug Gilliatt, and me, as well as Chris Matthy and Frank Ross. Others have been officers over the years, and we thank them for their time and dedication. The editor of *The Villager* role has been filled by Matthew Harvazinski for several years, and that was a big help by taking on one of John’s many tasks. Thank you, Matt! As the PCA left us behind, begging us to catch up, we realize that we can’t, and very likely, shouldn’t, continue as we have been. We’ve had to beg for volunteers and beg for members to run for one of the available offices. John has chosen to not to continue as Secretary-Treasurer after 20 years in that role. 20 years! We can’t argue with that, and as the officer elections come up again, we don’t expect to have multiple volunteers to step up and put in all the hours it takes to run the organization as we currently know it.

The path forward is clear. The path forward ensures that the PCA remains as the most comprehensive source of plastic village information in the world. The path forward will be successful. The path forward is a lean, internet-based, organization.

That means:

- We will no longer charge dues.
- We will count upon donations to cover our costs.
- We will no longer publish “*The Villager*”.
- We will no longer have a “Members Only” area. All content on the current website will be available to all.
- We will publish donated articles on the PCA web site.
- We will maintain our 501(c)3 designation to ensure that donations are tax-deductible thus maximizing donations.

- We will provide hard copies of any requested info at a fee.
- We will increase internet resources like Facebook, and other modern tools (Twitter, Instagram, etc).
- We will increase face to face interactions at meetings at York, TCA and other conventions – via volunteers.

We currently provide excellent content, have a robust level of membership, and have decent income via advertising. However, this takes so much time and effort, mostly through John, and nobody seems willing to take on this time commitment. We cannot continue as we are. We must look to the future and make changes while we have a few volunteers willing to see it through. This isn’t an ultimatum but if we don’t get volunteers these proposals will happen and must happen soon to ensure the continuation of, and the future of, the PCA. The future is a good thing!

Next steps? Can we count on anyone to volunteer? To maintain 503(c)3 status we need a minimum number of officers officially in place. We are looking for your feedback, your ideas, and, your continued support. What funding options would you like to see? Kickstarter, Patreon, donations via PayPal? Volunteers would review donated articles for appropriate content before being published to the web site. My personal goal is to continue to add photos to the web page. Who can take and send photos of missing items or to improve existing pictures? We need support for by-laws and constitution changes – let’s hear from you. If you are comfortable writing an article, send it to us, if you’re not comfortable writing, at least send us topics that you would like to see articles written on, or content to be expanded on the web site.

The PCA will never go away on my watch. Who’s with me? Who’s with the PCA? **Who will volunteer?**

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THESE POSITIONS MUST BE FILLED FOR THE PCA TO REMAIN AN ORGANIZATION!

President

- The President shall preside at the meetings (via chat, e-mail, or in person) of the Association and the Executive Committee.
- Appoint other committees as necessary.
- Further the welfare of the Association, to the best of his/her ability.

Vice President

- Shall serve in the absence of the President.
- Act on the responsibilities of the office set out in the by-laws.
- Attend to other duties as directed by the President or Executive Committee.
- Further the welfare of the Association to the best of his/her ability.

Secretary

- Keeps records of all meetings, business, memberships, handles correspondence, and makes necessary reports.
- Maintains membership database and website access database.
- Processes membership applications.
- Removes non-renewing member access credentials to the website prior to publication of the March newsletter.
- Provides Newsletter Publisher with appropriate member and return address labels each quarter.
- 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.

- 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.
- Provides required newsletter postage to Newsletter Publisher each quarter.
- Attends to such other duties as directed by the Executive Committee.

Advertising Coordinator

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

Newsletter Publisher

- Proofreads newsletters and communicates any corrections to the editor prior to the finalization of each newsletter.
- Downloads finalized newsletters.
- Procures newsletter mailing envelopes.
- Procures printing of the newsletters.
- Mails the printed newsletters which includes labeling, adding postage, and inserting them into mailing envelopes.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



It happened several years in a row. Even as an older teen I was still into HO trains, and every Christmas I would build a big layout in the basement. Central to the display were the Plasticville HO buildings my father had accumulated over many years, though every year was a clean slate for track plan and village arrangement. I still

have all those buildings, though they were “modified” after my grandmother brought me a bunch of Faller buildings from Germany one year, and I had extra sprues of plastic vines and bushes from those kits – well, what did I know about collector value in the ‘60’s?

Anyway, what happened several years in a row is that our extended family would gather for a post-Christmas gathering, and I would proudly show off the layout. Later in the evening the parents would lean on me and one other cousin to drive our grandmother home to Philadelphia – which is when my other cousins would go down to the basement and run the trains at breakneck speed until they derailed and caused basic mayhem in the village. The next day was always a repair day.

Which got me thinking about writing a story about a Christmas village that would come alive after the lights went out. Trains would run on time, people would run their errands, and then – at dawn – everything would return to its “normal” state. The mystified owner would come down every day and find trains in different places, vehicles and figures moved, and maybe even some evidence of mayhem. A “Twilight Zone” episode toyed with the same storyline, if I recall correctly.

I never wrote that story, though as a younger kid I knew which house I lived in on the layout, which also had my favorite toy car in the driveway and a cute Plasticville citizen as my girlfriend. Someone with a similar inspiration did write two short novels, “Christmasville” and “Finding Christmasville,” that told the

story of a Christmas village that came alive from the perspective of the villagers! I haven’t found any evidence that the third book in the trilogy, “Saving Christmasville,” was ever published. Anyone know? Which is a good time to remind you that our advertisers in *The Villager* hope to get our business. I hope you support them and mention that you found out about them through our newsletter.

In any case, it’s all a throwback to a former time. Nowadays kids don’t need to unbox building kits and set them up – they can go on the computer and build villages and cities and empires in a virtual world. Certainly takes less space, and they don’t have to worry like I did about accidentally bumping the layout and having all those delicate HO buildings with their worn tabs fall apart and collapse. The one exception might be the world of LEGO; but even there, though LEGO tries to talk about creativity, one walk down the LEGO aisle in stores shows that much of the creativity was done in the LEGO design studios.

So here’s to those of you that make the setting up of a village – whether at the holidays or just any old time – a family project and involve the kids and grandkids in the process. Or maybe you just enjoy sharing the story of your favorite plastic village items with others, especially sharing how long some of those items have been in your family. Somehow we need to share the stories and the joy so future generations will still be attached to our favorite plastic village. Who knows, maybe some of them will dream of fun stories, too.

Chris Matthy
PCA President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well, springtime is definitely in the air in Colorado. We had a long extension of winter weather through most of April which stretched into early May.

We had a fairly strong turnout at the April PCA meeting during the York train show. It seems that this meeting seems to draw more members and not yet members as the years go on. It was wonderful to see our Secretary/Treasurer back at the meeting. He really knows how to conduct this meeting, and always shares his knowledge of everything Plasticville as well as other manufacturer’s products to the attendees.

The 20th anniversary piece is currently in production. John received a pre-production sample from Bachmann, and gave our approval to proceed with the production. Bachmann also sent a sample of the label that will be affixed to the box. This label will follow the format of the label that was used on our 10th anniversary barn. The bad news is that we don’t yet have a promise date from them as to when these units will be delivered. I’m trying to

stay optimistic with predicting we will see them sometime this summer. The good news is that Bachmann has stated that there will be no additional charge for these units due to the possible tariffs, and that the original quoted price for them is still valid.

Due to the fact that the post office has raised their rates last January, has actually resulted with a price decrease for us mailing out our hardcopy newsletters. As a result, there will not be an increase of our membership dues next year. Also, the executive committee decided that no matter what time any new member joins our organization as an ePCA member, the annual dues will be \$8.00 based on the fact that they will be able to access the members only portion of our website, and be able to review all of the prior newsletters that are posted.

In this newsletter, you will see information for complete Plasticville kits for sale that are coming out of our (Garage Sale) parts bin. The executive committee voted to have these kits available only to our members. There will be 53 different kits available on a first come-first served basis. This list will be updated in the September newsletter to show which kits (if any) are remaining.

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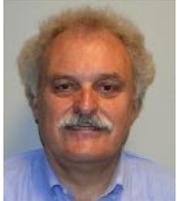
It is now the time of the year to call out for nominations for the offices of President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer for the next term. The executive committee has agreed to split apart the responsibilities of the office of Secretary and Treasurer provided that a nomination for both the offices of Secretary and Treasurer are received for the 2020-2021 officer's term. Your present officers have all served a double term for the lack of anyone wanting to commit to serve. The current officers do not intend to run for reelection. Our present Secretary/Treasurer has served in this capacity for over twenty years, and even though he has enjoyed serving in this capacity, his commitments have

changed. It is time for someone(s) to step up to keep our organization going strong. Besides, it is healthy for any organization to be run by new officers to be able to present new and different (and maybe better) ideas. Do not hesitate to nominate yourself if you feel that you can make a difference, and you can fill one of the offices. You can rest assured that the outgoing officers will assist you in any way they can to their utmost.

As Lou Palumbo always says, "Keep Searchin".

Frank Ross
PCA Vice President

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



Good news. The 20th anniversary Frosty Bar has passed the pre-production sample color approval stage. I received a sample a few weeks ago. Photos of the sample were sent to the Executive Committee for review and approval. The members approved the sample and I contacted Bachmann and authorized their production. I am just guessing that it will be at least two more months before I receive the pieces for shipping to you.

Somewhere in this issue is a listing of fifty three buildings that are owned by the PCA and are for sale at what is felt are reasonable prices. The buildings on the list are complete items that have been donated to the PCA over the years. They were set aside rather than being placed in *The Parts Bin* as available parts. The items are as priced but does not include shipping. It is noted in the heading of the list that some pieces may have reproduction parts. I have tried to ensure that there are no repro parts but cannot guarantee that.

Color! Color! Color Please be sure to specify the color of a piece you need when making a request of *The Parts Bin*. Please be as specific as possible. IE: Light blue instead of blue. Dark brown instead of just brown. Numerous pieces have been produced in more than one shade of a color. I need to know specifically what you need to expedite getting the parts to you. Many times I have to contact the person making the request or second guess what is being requested. Contacting the requester slows down the time between the initial request and the shipping of the requested parts.

This also holds true for roofs and walls. The barn roofs are left and right as are the Cape Cods. Some of the walls of the Cathe-

dral, Town Hall, and others also have left and right components. Many of these are marked with the letter L or the letter R. Please review the piece you have and request the opposite piece. There have been times when I have sent both pieces as I was unsure whether a left or right piece was needed.

My thanks to all of you who have returned stamps used on our various communications to you but it is not necessary to send them back immediately. Feel free to hold onto all of them until you have an accumulation and then send them to me. Again, thanks to all who have sent stamps to me.

I received the below information in an email from the wife of a now deceased member and thought I would share her comments with you.

From: Judy Caffey

Message: Good afternoon, It is with great sadness that I share that my husband, Eugene Caffey, passed away in October. He so enjoyed the train meets in York and had in the more recent years joined your organization. I will never forget how excited he was when he came home and said he had joined. He looked forward to receiving The Villager and, believe me when I say, read it cover to cover. Thank you for providing him with much enjoyment and information.

*Sincerely,
Judy Caffey*

John L Niehaus
Secretary/Treasurer

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Well the first ever June newsletter is done, let's make sure it is not the last! Please consider volunteering for one of the positions listed on page 3. As a current volunteer I find it very rewarding. The time is manageable and it is fantastic to get to read all of the submissions that come in. I think that the other positions would be similarly rewarding. Like everything they will be what you make it, you don't need to put in dozens of hours a week.

I am pleased that I got submissions from several new people for this issue. Please send something in, don't be afraid! I also had time to author what I hope will be a reoccurring article on harder to find variations.

Matt Harvazinski

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- #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
- #1068 David G Dunmire, Silver Spring, MD

PROPOSED MEMBERS

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association as of May 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 June 30, 2019 if no objection to such action is received prior to that date.

- #1069 Robert Klaus, Barrington, NJ
- #1070 Richard T Schunk, Canton, GA
- #1071 Jerry L Summerfield, Oklahoma City, OK
- #1072 Phil F Piscitello, Edgerton, WI
- #1073 John E Laudont, South Elgin, IL
- #1074 John E Moore, Middletown, MD
- #1075 Jill A Shelenske, South Milwaukee, WI
- #1076 Gregory L Chambers, Fredericksburg, VA
- #1077 Anthony M Pagano, Middle Village, NY
- #1078 David Barsottini, Beaver Falls, PA
- #1079 Jeff N Moeller, Downers Grove, IL
- #1080 Frank L Pete, Fairbault, MN
- #1081 James L Hardman, Lake Wylie, SC
- #1082 William D Vasilion, Palos Park, IL
- #1083 John M Miller, Paradise, PA
- #1084 John R Kestler, North Versailles, PA
- #1085 James E Rohrer, Rochester, MN
- #1086 David M Holt, Apollo, PA
- #1087 Rodney L Huff, South Mountain, PA
- #1088 Howard H Toll, Brecksville, OH

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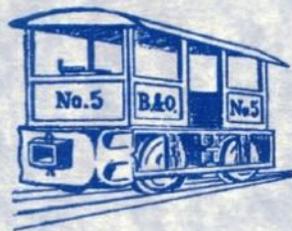
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GARAGE (STORAGE UNIT) SALE

Listed below are pieces that have been donated to the PCA and are currently in The Parts Bin storage unit. All are complete and unbroken. Every precaution has been taken to ensure that all pieces are original but considering the time that excellent reproduction pieces have been available there is no guarantee, especially on the smaller parts. The pieces will be offered in this issue and the September issue of *The Villager* only. Prices do not include packaging and mailing. It is suggested that you consider a minimum of \$6 for packaging and mailing.

Orders may be placed either by email or U.S. Mail. Specify which numbers you wish to purchase. You will be informed as to which pieces you have successfully purchased and your total cost either by email or telephone as soon as possible after placing your order.

1. Airport Hangar, blue roof - no box - \$9
2. Hospital, no furniture or floor - fair box - \$6
3. Diner, red roof - no box - \$6
4. Model Power Log Cabin - excellent box - \$9
5. K-Line Campbell's Diner - excellent box - \$9
6. Fire House, no engines - no box - \$4
7. Log Cabin, no chimney type - no box - \$6
8. Dairy Barn, red w/grey roof - Fair box - \$7
9. 1405 RR & Street signs, no insert - good box - \$3
10. K-Line chicken house, green - no box - \$5
11. Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - no box - \$3
12. Ranch House, salmon/white roof & trim - no box - \$4
13. Ranch House, salmon/white roof & trim - no box - \$4
14. Ranch House, salmon/white roof & trim - no box - \$4
15. Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - no box - \$4
16. Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - no box - \$4
17. Fire House, no engines - no box - \$4
18. Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - no box - \$3
19. Cape Cod, white/green roof & trim - no box - \$2
20. Cape Cod, white/green roof & trim - no box - \$2
21. Cape Cod, white, brown. roof, yellow trim - no box - \$4
22. Trestle Bridge, black - poor box - \$7
23. Trestle Bridge, black - no box - \$6
24. Switch Tower, grey walls - good box - \$6
25. Fire House, glued siren, no engines - no box - \$3
26. Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - no box - \$3
27. Freight Station, grey shed, repro sign - early roof version - no box - \$7
28. Switch Tower, Grey bldg, very small corner missing on upper rt. of front wall - 1 pin missing from steps- no box - \$3
29. BN-1 barn, white walls - no box - \$2
30. BN-1 barn, white walls - no box - \$2
31. BN-1 barn, white walls - no box - \$2
32. No Logo Fire House, missing siren - no box - \$6
33. Fire House, no box - \$4
34. Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - no box - \$3
35. CC-8 Church, small door - no box - \$3
36. BN-1 barn, white walls - no box - \$2
37. SC-4 School House - glued lights, no weathervane - poor box - \$2
38. SC-4 School House, no weathervane - fair box - \$2
39. RH-1 Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - correct poor box - \$3
40. RH-1 Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - correct poor box - \$3
41. RH-1 Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - correct good box - \$3
42. RH-1 Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - correct poor box - \$3
43. RH-1 Ranch House, white/ lt. blue roof & trim - correct poor box - \$3
44. BN-1 barn, red walls, cream roof & silo cap, white ventilators - no box - 6
45. RA-6 Railroad Accessories Unit, no insert, trees assembled - fair box - \$4
46. 1616 Suburban Station, dark grey roof, repro signs - good box - \$5
47. Diner, yellow roof - good box - \$5
48. Bridge & Pond Unit - fair box - \$3
49. 1600 Church, window films excellent - poor box - \$8
50. 12-A Road Signs, w/insert - box fair - \$6
51. 2 Story House, yellow walls/red roof/mustard trim - no box - \$6
52. BN-1 barn, red walls, cream roof & silo cap, white ventilators - no box - \$6
53. CC-8 Church, gold cross, grey roof - no box - \$6

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0500 KING Apartment House (Brown) \$30
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 SECOND QUARTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The 2019 second quarter Executive Committee meeting was called to order on April 29, 2019 at 7:34PM Eastern Daylight Time by President Chris Matthy. Those in attendance were President Chris Matthy, Vice President Frank Ross, Secretary Treasurer John Niehaus, Immediate Past President Doug Gilliatt and founder, Joe Kutza.

Old Business

20th anniversary piece

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has received a pre-production sample of the piece and, with the approval of the Executive Committee, authorized Bachmann to start production of the pieces.

President Matthy asked if the unit price had changed as the initial price quote was before the new import tariffs took effect. Secretary Niehaus stated that he was assured by Bachmann that the initial quoted price was still valid.

He also stated that he was sent samples of the label to be used on the boxes. As the label followed the same format as the label used on the 10th anniversary barns sent Bachmann an approval.

Membership dues review

After a discussion it was decided that a review of the current dues structure was unnecessary due to a moderate decrease in the costs to mail the hard copy newsletters.

Transcription of Lee Riley interview of 2012

Secretary Niehaus reported that he was able to create an editable copy of the transcript and that it was therefore not necessary for him to purchase software for that purpose.

Newsletter publisher volunteer

Secretary Niehaus reported that the person who had volunteered to be the newsletter publisher has bowed out due to unforeseen commitments.

New Business

ePCA dues

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to set the dues for ePCA membership at \$8 regardless of when a person joins if they choose that level on their membership application.

Secretary Niehaus will update the membership application and ensure that it replaces the current application on the website.

Parts Bin complete buildings

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has been setting back buildings donated to *The Parts Bin* if they were complete. He reported that he has compiled a list of 53 pieces. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved, after review of the list by the Executive Committee, to offer these to the membership at the prices shown on the list. It was agreed to publish the list in the June newsletter and publish a list of remaining pieces in the September newsletter.

Early call for nominations for the 2020-2021 term

A discussion regarding the future of the Association was held as both Vice President Frank Ross and Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus have indicated that they will not run for reelection for the 2020-2021 term. Concerns for the future of the Association were expressed if there are no volunteers for either of these positions, especially the Secretary/Treasurer position. As in past discussions it was agreed that the Secretary/Treasurer position could be separated into two positions with a change to the Association's constitution.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to publish a call for nominations in the June issue of *The Villager*. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to designate September 15 the last date that nominations are to be received.

Founder Joe Kutza will write a letter to the membership regarding the future of the Association. It will be published in the June edition of *The Villager*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM, Eastern Daylight Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus, Secretary/Treasurer



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K-Line Marx Lionel Skyline & More

MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING AND ACCESSORY SET PACKAGING



DONALD W. HUOVINEN #11-714

In 1987 K-line cataloged its very first train set, the K-1701 Chessie System. This set included a station platform, newsstand, 5 telephone poles, and 12 yard signs. This was the beginning of a great number of sets which included buildings and accessories. Many, many sets included at least 5 telephone poles and 12 yard signs.

K-Line continued to include buildings and accessories in many of its sets throughout the years. Some of those buildings and accessories included in specialty and licensed sets have become especially sought after as some of these sets were produced in very low numbers and the buildings and accessories included in these sets were not available for separate sale.

The packaging for the buildings and accessories included in train sets were: separate sale packaging, generic box packaging, plastic bags, and nothing.

If the item included in the set was also available for separate sale, K-Line often simply included the separate sale packaged item in the set box. This was especially true in the later years with the licensed sets. Boxes used for these have been covered in previous editions of this column.

A second way of packaging items in a set box was to put the items in a generic box. Typically this was a white, one-piece box. These generic boxes may or may not have had the item identified either by having rubber stamping or a sticker of some sort on the outside of the box. Photo 1 shows three white generic boxes. One has no printing, the second is rubber stamped and the third has a paper label glued to the box.



Photo 1

K-Line's method of packing building components progressed from a number of small packages (initially paper bags) included in the larger building box to the point that all building components were packaged in a large plastic bag which was then placed in the building box. At this point K-Line began including only the plastic bags in the set boxes. There was no building box per se. The example shown in Photo 2 is the K-40815 Burger Bar Diner included in the K-1523 Anheuser Busch Train Set.



Photo 2

Finally, in some cases, K-Line resorted to the simplest packaging method of all: nothing. The items were simply placed loose in the set box, or in the case of some of the earlier sets, the items were secured to cardboard with twist ties. The most common example is the ubiquitous telephone poles which K-Line seemingly included in every set. But of more interest is that virtually all of the billboards which were included in many specialty and licensed sets were also packaged this way.

Photo 3 is the set box for K-1501A IHOP Restaurant Wabash Freight Set. K-4031 Decatur Station and K40811 IHOP Diner were packaged in plastic bags and were both placed in a generic brown cardboard box (opened for clarity). Five each K-4176 Telephone poles were loosely placed in the box and the K-4179 RR Yard Signs were in a plastic bag placed on top of the telephone poles (they were re-positioned for the sake of clarity). K-235 Remote Uncoupling Track was a separate sale item and was placed on top of the track. The newsstand was to be includ-



Photo 3

ed with the set but is AWOL in my set. Presumably it would have been placed loose in the cardboard box.

Photo 4 shows the accessory components of K-1107 Pennsylvania Iron Horse Complete Layout. The components are attached to the back of a shallow cardboard box with twist ties. There is something for everyone here. Most of the components for K-4031 Suburban Station are in one plastic bag but the figures, station accessories and other small components are in another plastic bag. Similarly the major components for the K-4132 Barn & Chicken Coop are in one plastic bag. The smaller components, the fence pieces, and the figures each came in their own separate plastic bag. The major components for the K-4120 Ranch House are in one plastic bag. The figures and shrubbery are in their own plastic bag as are the fence pieces. The two roof pieces are unpackaged and are simply twist-tied to the cardboard. Similarly the two automobiles and the K-4188 Grade Crossing are also twist-tied to the cardboard.

This concludes my columns regarding K-Line packaging. In future columns I'll cover some of the more interesting aspects of K-Line as it relates to their plastic buildings and accessories.



Photo 4

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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PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 302

Lionel HO: The Madison Hardware Connection

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154



Bachmann's pre-Plasticville distribution network had been forged by territory salesmen who took the product to the street. My Grandfathers were merchants – they called them drummers. Lionel Corp. had been in business almost as long as Bachmann Brothers, and they had a network of exclusive dealers and service stations. Upon going into the Lionel Corp - Bachmann business arrangement some retailers, like Sears Roebuck, had already been shared by both Lionel Corp. and Bachmann. None the least of these was Madison Hardware at 105 E. 23rd St., N.Y.C. owned by Louis Shur. The Madison Hardware connection is an intriguing legend. When told about Madison Hardware, Lionel collectors contrive images of a magical and mythical place, almost as if the aisles were lifelike. But myths have always been based on some truth. A few longtime Plasticville collectors think that Madison Hardware was a third player in the original production of Lionel Plasticville. For instance, Madison Hardware might have sublet the Lionel Corp-Bachmann agreement by functioning as a broker with distribution rights. Thus, in that manner, Lionel boxes and the means to mimeograph instruction sheets were sent to Madison Hardware under Lionel's licensed trade name. The components were sent to them by Bachmann under their own patent for Plasticville U.S.A. That situation could have worked. If so, that would have meant that neither Lionel Corp. nor Bachmann could work out who's floor space was going to be impacted the least by the original agreement. Most longtime Plasticville collectors say that Madison Hardware was simply a preferred buyer of Lionel surplus and salvage, thus functioning as an assemblage of licensed products as they saw fit. In that way, the majority of Lionel Plasticville collectors contend that Madison Hardware did assemble Plasticville into unused but authorized Lionel boxes, but it was done way after the original products had been discontinued. A few Lionel Plasticville collectors suppose that Madison Hardware did not ship their assemblage, but might have sold compiled Lionel Plasticville on their own shelves. There is ample evidence that Madison Hardware had blanket approval from Lionel Corp. to do that and other similar things.

The writer provides evidence that could be substantial to support a Madison hardware connection. In January 2004 a stack of five Lionel Plasticville HO sets were up for sale. All the boxes were the same number 0415, however the contents for each box were all different. The printed number 0415 and the set name had all been marked out by a ballpoint pen, and stickers had been applied to identify four of them as 0410, 0412, 0413 and 0414. When challenged that the sets were compiled the seller said, "Yes, but these are from Madison Hardware." Because the style looked consistent with other known Madison Hardware collectable's, the writer acquired the lot. Madison Hardware usually affixed their namesake shiny stickers to things that they sold, but these five had none. Then so, because the china marker hand written price marks looked authentic, then these modified

0415 boxed sets were probably made up to sell out of the aisles of the fabled Madison Hardware.



⇒ The Sets Part II ⇐

No. 0420 Railroad Set, cataloged in 1961, was not much different than the more easily acquired No. 0416. The set contained a suburban station with no extended platform, 12 citizens from group "B", including painting supplies, a block signal, a crossing signal, 4 telephone poles, and 4 press together pine trees. The set's citizens and small components, were enclosed in heat sealed bags, and the pine trees were still on their forming sprues. The lenses for the signals were on translucent sprues. The painting fluid was enclosed in a small brown paper bag to keep it from rolling around in the set box. The set was packaged in a late classic Lionel box measuring $7 \frac{3}{8} \times 3 \frac{3}{4} \times 1 \frac{1}{4}$ inches, with instructions. The set included Lionel's instruction page, and Bachmann's instruction page, "Painting Plastic People".

No. 0421 Farm Set, cataloged in 1961, was an expanded version of the more easily acquired No. 0417. For example, a farm out building group, and a windmill were added, however no farmer or lady was enclosed. In addition, the set contained a white Cape Cod house with a porch, a tuscan barn, and 16 fowl and domestic animals. The out buildings were bright red with white roofs. The packing characteristics were just like the 0417, with small parts in heat sealed bags and the animals on their forming sprues. The set was packaged in a late classic Lionel box measuring $8 \times 6 \times 3$ inches, with instructions. The set was a very attractive build up and was more all-inclusive than Bachmann's own original HO



farm boxed sets had been. The final set from 1961 would surpass the appeal of any of the original Plasticville HO line of boxed railroad centers.

No. 0422 Freight Area Set, cataloged in 1961, was the largest set that Lionel HO ever offered. It also had as its centerpiece, the tallest HO structure, a model of a large coaling station. This coaling station was an original product of the Plasticville HO line; accordingly the O & S coaling station was not to appear until 1964, too late to be included in any generic landscape boxed set. So, at that time Bachmann's growing HO department clearly was getting the upper hand over the Original Plastic Village. Another building which was original to the HO line, a cracker box freight station, with no logo, was also a component of this set. Three other core components of this set were, a switch tower with no logo, a water tower with the logo, and a railroad work car. The set was accessorized with three phone poles, a block signal, 5 railroad characters, and the following small items attached to two sprues: a coal bin, a wash pot, a wood pile, a 55 gallon drum, a hand truck, 3 flour bags, two rain barrels, and a crate. The windows and doors and other small parts for the structures were enclosed in a heat sealed bag. The instruction sheet shows the switch tower with no porch, but a porch was included in the set. The water tower is not supposed to have a base. The station, coal tower, and switch tower structures were



gray with brown roofs; the work car and the water tower were gray with brown roofs. This set may have been packaged in an orange picture Lionel box just for 1962.

No. 0426 Railroad Station and Signal Set, cataloged in 1962, was a perfect complement to the No. 0422, which was still being offered in 1962. This set brought back the suburban station. It was paired with two structures which had not yet been offered by Lionel HO. So, a matching platform extension for the suburban station and a signal bridge were included in the set. The set was accessorized with four phone poles, two figures, a block signal, crossing gate and crossing signal, a bench, a crate, two pieces of luggage, and two trash cans. The lenses were on translucent sprues, and the accessories were on one tan sprue. The other parts were enclosed in heat sealed bags. The set was packaged in an orange picture Lionel box measuring $7 \frac{1}{2} \times 5 \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \frac{3}{4}$ inches with an instruction page. The box end flaps were type set just like late classic Lionel boxes had been. The box top's sketch of the set's components was set on a white background. The signal bridge is centered between the suburban station and its extended platform, and it is flanked by the its smaller signals. The phone poles were set in the background. The picture represents the contents exactly.

No. 0425 Figure Set, also cataloged in 1962, was ironic. Remember that 0411 Figure Set, from 1959, which had a watchman's shanty with no crossing gate? Well, here it is. This set includes 24 citizens, painting supplies and one, only, crossing gate. The set was also packaged in the newly available orange picture Lionel box, measuring $7 \frac{1}{2} \times 5 \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \frac{3}{4}$ inches, with instructions, and possibly Bachmann's instruction sheet, "Painting Plastic People". The citizens were enclosed in a clear heat sealed bag. The painting fluid was enclosed in a small brown paper bag. The box top's sketch of the set's components was set on a white background. The paint fluid bottle was displayed on the palette's center tray depression, with a brush and the crossing gate next to it. The figures were evenly arranged along the perimeter. If informative pictures such as this had appeared on earlier box tops then Lionel Plasticville might have become more successful. The picture represented the contents exactly. To add to the irony, this simply plain set has the exceptional honor of having been the final Lionel Plasticville set of both the HO scale and O gauge. It appears by itself in the 1963 Lionel Catalog.

With the No. 0425 Figure Set being the sole Plasticville entry in the 1963 Lionel Catalog, Lionel Plasticville came to an unceremonious end. Or did it? Was Lionel Corp. reluctant to continue boxing Plasticville as a product, or was Bachmann reluctant to continue packaging custom heat sealed bags for Lionel? Bachmann could have said they were losing efficiency because Lionel was picky. Lionel Corp. could have said they were overstocked because Plasticville was not selling well. Perhaps Lionel Corp. was obligated to always show Plasticville in their catalogs during the term of the Lionel Corp - Bachmann agreement, and in 1963 they chose one lonely Lionel HO boxed set. All Lionel Corp. had to do was supply boxes from their vendor. All the while Bachmann would have been producing both the HO scale and O gauge components to satisfy the minimum requirements of the agreement. Yet, during 1964, there was an indication that the Lionel Corp - Bachmann agreement had not yet come to an

end. And that leads to the real Madison Hardware connection. Madison Hardware was the origin of the following sets packaged in plain white boxes: 953, 955, 956, 959, 961, & 980. These sets were available from 1964 through 1969. Madison Hardware used a generic top opening box, and they rubber stamped the Lionel set number on one end flap. The set's names were not used. Note the dates carefully. While a Lionel HO No. 0425 Figure Set was still in the 1963 Lionel Catalog, that was not being done. The point here is that in 1963 Madison Hardware might still have access to fill Plasticville components into the regular Lionel Plasticville boxes. By and large, the Plasticville surplus wound up at Madison Hardware, like most everything else that Lionel Corp. liquidated. Well, it shore took 'um a long time to sell it.



PLASTICVILLE IN THE 2019 BACHMANN TRAINS CATALOG

JOHN NIEHAUS #00-03

The 2019 Bachmann trains catalog is now available as a PDF download and a print form. It is also available online at Bachmann's website if you wish. It follows the same format as last year's in that it is one catalog and not two catalogs in one as had been past practice.

There is no longer separate sections for the O/S, HO, and N scale Plasticville pieces. All are now lumped together in the Buildings and Accessories subsection of the Landscape, Building, Figures, and Accessories section. This follows the format of last year.

The same N scale pieces in the 2018 catalog appear again in this year's issue for a total of eight. Footprints for the pieces are included inside the illustrations of all pieces again this year. Prices for all of the pieces increased by \$2 over that of last year.

Prices for all twenty seven of the HO pieces appearing in this year's catalog increased by \$1. The pieces illustrated are the same pieces as in the 2018 catalog. As with last year, the footprints are part of the building's illustration. Separately listed footprints are noted for each of the Farm Buildings with Animals except for the dog house.

All twenty eight O Scale pieces listed in the 2018 catalog are still in the 2019 edition if the Rustic Fence is included. Footprints for each piece are listed as part of the item information below the illustrations making them much easier to read compared to the N and HO footprint information. Multiple footprints are included where there are multiple items for a stock number. It seems odd to me but the listed price of all of the illustrated pieces increased by only fifty cents. I would have thought they would have increased by at least \$1 after reviewing the N and HO price increases.

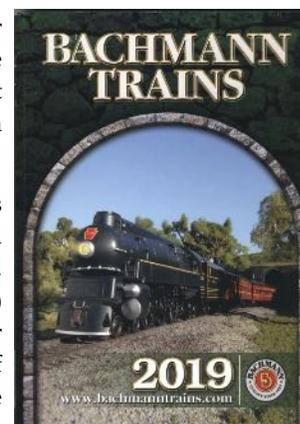
The 2019 catalog is available on Bachmann's website to view in PDF format. The home page is listed at the end of the article. Click on the Catalogs and Brochures link near the top of that page and then on the Bachmann & Williams 2019 Catalog link on the next page. This will open the catalog in your browser. 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 when you hover over the arrow.

Finding the Plasticville listings is quite easy as it is now all lumped together as previously mentioned. Use the Search (magnifying glass) function found in the menu bar under the arrow at the top center of the page. Type Plasticville in the pop up window, and click the magnifying glass icon. Select the Page 275 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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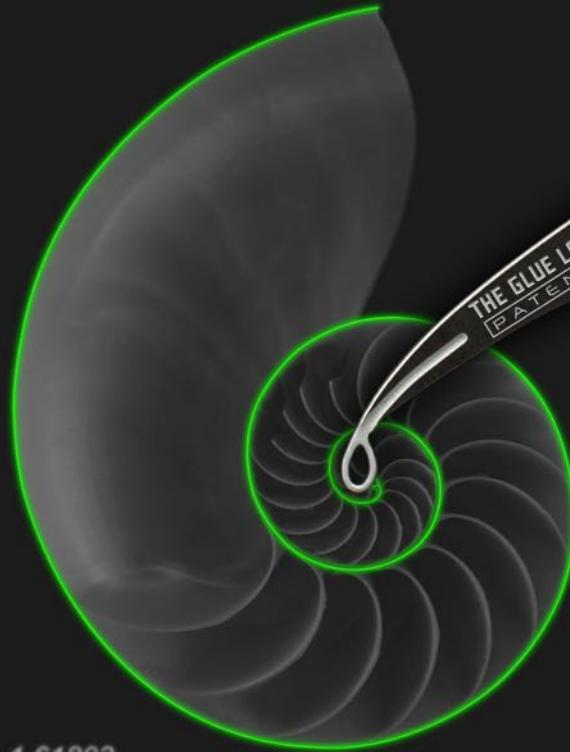
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THE HUNT FOR VARIATIONS I – THE CHARCOAL ROOF

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI #11-682

This is a new column idea that I had, if you have feedback please let me know. My goal with this column is to present more difficult variations with comparisons to their more common counterparts. The first step to acquiring these items is to know what to look for!

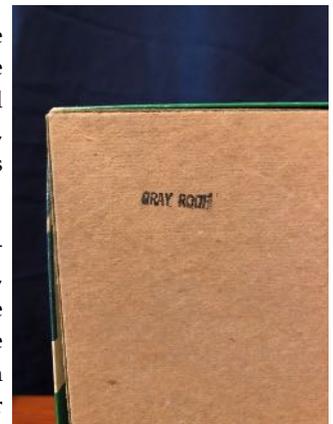
This first item I will discuss is the Two Story Colonial House with red walls and the charcoal roof. My Dad and I have had this since 1991, at that time we did not know what it was because the Iron Horse price guide did not list this variation so we assumed that it was the red with grey roof variation. Many years later we saw this variation for sale at a show, it was pre-recession priced which made us hesitate and wonder if we had this at home! The seller was convinced we had the grey roof version at home because that is what our inventory was marked. Ultimately we decided to pass, when we got back from the show we found the Charcoal roof version sitting on the layout and were both pleasantly surprised!

The more common Red Walls, Grey Roof, and White Trim can be found in the early LH-4 box, or the later 1700 box. I have also seen it in some master units. The less common Red Walls, Charcoal Roof, and White Trim is found only in the 1807 box. This box is marked "grey roof" on the underside. The 1807 typically has tan walls with either, green, dark brown, or white trim. The green trim version has a green roof while the other two have red roofs. This tells us that the "grey roof" stamp is unique to this very desirable version. (The tan/green/green version is also difficult). Don't however let the "grey roof" stamp fool you, the roof is not grey, it is charcoal! You can see in the photo that the hue of red is different. The red in the 1807 is more vibrant, while the red in the other boxes is more muted. This contributes to this versions elusiveness, the walls, weathervane, TV antenna, porch poles, and roof parts are all unique to this version.



As you set out to find this treasure make sure to watch out for the correct box stamp. Make sure all of the red parts are the same color, and make sure all 4 roof pieces match.

Also, as a fun fact look at the image of the house next to the box, notice anything? The house on the front of the box is a mirror image of the actual house. This error can also be found on the 1808 box for the New England Rancher!



BENCH DISPLAY FOR HO COLLECTIONS

JAMES ROHRER #19-1085

As a new member, I was eager to read the back issues of *The Villager* so as to get ideas for displaying my Plasticville houses. A couple of years ago, I was participating in the Toy Train discussion group that is linked to *Classic Toy Trains* magazine. That is a great bunch of people. They are not as stuffy about realism as the HO-focused crowd found in most online groups. However, the toy train folks are mostly into O gauge. I tried going that route, but it did not suit me or the space available.

The pages of *The Villager* contain some layout photos and I would love to see more. PCA members seem to be doing the following:

1. Storing Plasticville in boxes until holidays then setting up temporary displays.
2. Box storage plus a permanent layout table.
3. Book shelf display of the collection.

4. Book shelf display of the collection plus a permanent layout table.
5. Devoting a room to a permanent train layout.
6. Maintaining a large mobile layout for taking to train shows.

It seems that few have built large permanent layouts with detailed terrain and complex wiring. Throwing a quilt or table cloth on a card table for a temporary layout is adequate, or even setting up the buildings on the floor. Either of these types of displays will be taken down eventually so



that the space can return to normal usage.

An alternative that would work for some people is to set up a narrow table at one end of spare room. This could be called a bench display. Narrow folding tables are not expensive. The one I use is 30 inches wide and six feet long. This provides enough space for a point-to-point train line, a business district, a Cape Cod neighborhood, a ranch house neighborhood and a ridge line. The ridge was made with one can of spray insulation. I just sprayed it onto a board, painted it green, and stuck trees into it. The ridge board adds elevation and the trees add color.

The table surface is covered with a grass sheet. The train sits on Bachmann snap-together track. Yes, it is powered for movement. Roads are black tarpaper strips. Parking lots and side-street parking spaces were made on a printer and glued to cereal box cardboard. More trees and bushes add life to the display. Some figures are there but they are too small to see. Perhaps people are optional on a HO display.

One narrow six-foot table does not take up a lot of space. My Plasticville collection is not large but the layout has several empty sites, so the collection has room to grow. Nothing is glued down, so rearranging structures is easy. Some people might not want to use this approach because it cannot be wired for lights and the train line component is minimal. On the other hand, a folding bench table offers a flexible approach to providing a

surface that can be used to display a Plasticville collection. My own efforts obviously do not rise to the artistic level that would be consistent with the term 'diorama'. However, these photos show that going beyond a simple table cloth for laying out your Plasticville structures is not difficult.



CUSTOM BUILDINGS FOR THE LAYOUT

LENNY WALTON #17-1027

I've always wanted to have a bus station on the layout but most of those available were too large. As you can see from the attached pictures, the Plasticville large supermarket can be made into a respectable bus station.

Every holiday we have an open house for the train layout and many of the families that come are from different countries around the world. We thought that it would be good to have a mosque on our train table and the Plasticville bank, with some modifications, makes a very nice model of one.



WHAT IS IT?

What is it? Lenny Walton found this in a junk box at York. Does anyone have information?

Let us know at *The Villager* and we will post any information received.



A HISTORY OF PLASTICVILLE: PART VI 1953-1954

TOM FRITSCH #01-4

HOSPITAL (HS-6, 1902, 1919, 1961, 45312, 45961)

The Hospital, with white walls and blue roof, was first built in 1953 as HS-6, to care for the residents of Plasticville. This is one of the largest Plasticville buildings. It is "a modern Hospital with daylight windows, accident and clinic entrances." In 1954, Bachmann introduced a cardboard second floor that held 22 pieces of furniture. This included seven beds, four straight back chairs, two chests of drawers, one desk, one office chair, one sink, one double toilet, one operating table, one anesthesia cart, one instrument table, one four-infant bassinet and one nursery changing table. The Hospital was cataloged as #1902 in 1957 and as #1919 in 1975. A black lettered Hospital with a dark gray trim is found with the 1975 issue. In 1987, catalog #1961 was issued. This version has no furniture, the roof and canopy were changed to gray and the lettering was unpainted. A "Built-Up" was issued in 2005 as #45312. An Ambulance never came with the Hospital, but one was available with the various Vehicle Assortments.

The #4004 "Make 'N' Play - House and Garden" set of 1964, consisted of 22 pieces of Hospital furniture along with a Split Level House, Swimming Pool and Playground Set, Barbeque, six Citizens and one Automobile. The Hospital furniture in this set was converted to play furniture for the Split Level House. The operating room equipment was shown in the kitchen and the operating table became the dining room table. This furniture came in both dark brown and white. The beds have various colors to simulate bedspreads.

1954

FROSTY BAR (FB-1, 1401, 45606)

"A modern attractive refreshment stand just like the ones seen along America's highways," the Frosty Bar came out in 1954 and was given the FB-1 catalog number. It is speculated that the Frosty Bar was designed by another company that Bachmann may have acquired. If it had been designed by Bachmann, it should have had their famous patented "snap-fit" construction. Instead, it goes together in a very loose and unique fashion that suggests the designer was trying to avoid infringing on anyone's patents. It also has a floor, unlike any other Plasticville structure. The Frosty Bar was produced in either salmon or yellow and white colors. The yellow variations of the Frosty Bar are less common than the salmon.

In 1955, Bachmann produced this kit with a silverized/chrome counter. The chrome was put on either salmon or yellow plastic to match the other parts. This is the only year that the chrome counter was used, making these kits more valuable. The silver metallization process used on the counter of the Frosty Bar was also used on the Barn silo top and roof ventilators as well as on the Diner walls. This process was previously used on church steeple crosses.

The catalog number was changed to #1401 in 1956, but Bachmann did not change to a new style box when its number changed. Bachmann resumed production of the Frosty Bar in 1998 (#45606) with cream walls and silver roof and floor. These were some of

the first Plasticville items to be made in China. Due to a misunderstanding, they were delivered painted, rather than molded in color. Frosty Bars in this first shipment were the only ones like that and may be quite scarce collectable's. Bachmann has also made a short run of Frosty Bars in the reverse color combination of silver walls with cream roof and floor, which is also somewhat hard to find.

SWITCH TOWER (SW-2, 1402, 1631, 1814, 1951, 5402, 45951)

The Switch Tower was first found along the Plasticville right-of-way in 1954. Described as "a realistic Switch Tower, typical of those found at junction points on all railroads," it was initially released under the number SW-2, but two years later the colorful #1402 box was issued. The boxes designated as #1631 and #1814 followed. The Pliofilm bag version, #5402, was issued in 1963 - where the marbled version originated. After 1989, it was issued with the Signal Bridge under #1951, #5402 and #45951. The Switch Tower may have cardboard signs, plastic signs or no signs. The #1814 and #1951 versions did not come with "PLASTICVILLE JUNCTION" signs on the roof. The slots that held them on the roof were filled in.

Around 1955-1956, the A. C. Gilbert Company released the Switch Tower as the #590 Control Tower (or Signal Tower) under the American Flyer trade name. A light was added, metal roof signs reading "Cedar Hill Junction" were included and the Tower walls were painted a flat yellow with a green roof and tuscan stairs and platform. Based on the box design and color combination, it is suspected that this Switch Tower was assembled and painted by the Gilbert Company.

Both the Lionel "Freight Yard Set" #981, introduced in 1960, and the "Railroad Set" #984 introduced in 1961 included a Switch Tower, Loading Platform, Telephone Poles and Railroad People. Only the later set added Railroad Signs. The Lionel "Freight Area Set" #985, from 1961, included a Switch Tower, Watchman's Shanty, Loading Platform, Water Tank, Railroad Work Car, three Automobiles, twelve Railroad Signs and eight Telephone Poles.

SIGNAL BRIDGE (SG-3, 1403, 1632, 1815, 1951, 5403, 45309, 45951, 45623)

When Bachmann came out with this Signal Bridge in 1954, as SG-3, it was the most delicate kit they had offered to date. It even came with assembly instructions. It was described as "an exact model of the Signal Bridge used by all the railroads" and designed to span two tracks. It has "dual 2-way 4-phase signal controls [that] 'beam' from [an] overhead catwalk mounting." The Signal Bridge is supposedly based on a Pennsylvania RR prototype. In 1956, the catalog number was changed to #1403; in 1963, it was issued in a Pliofilm bag as #5403; in 1967, it became #1632 and in 1971, it was designated as #1815. Between 1989 and 1999, it was issued with the Switch Tower under #1951, #5402 and #45951. The Signal Bridge was always issued in black until 1999, when it was released in silver-gray as #45623. This version was made in China. In 2005, a silver Signal Bridge was issued as "Built-Up" kit #45309.

TWO-STORY HOUSE (LH-4, 1700, 1807, 1922, 1936, 1957, 5700, 45305, 45622, 45936)

Originally constructed in Plasticville during 1954 as LH-4, this house has many color combinations and box variations. In 1956, #1700 was issued. In 1963, a Pliofilm bag version of the Two-Story House, #5700, was released. The rarest of the boxes is #1807, which was sold between 1966 and 1977. The photograph on this box is a reverse image of the actual structure. In 1977, #1922 was introduced, followed by #1936 in 1981. When the 50th Anniversary, Chinese-made, issue #45622 was cataloged in 1999, it was pictured as having the weathervane and antenna switched. In 2005, the Two-Story House was issued as "Built-Up" #45305 with light blue walls, light brown roof and cream trim; the antenna and weathervane were in fact switched. The instructions included with #45622 were numbered #1936. The windows, doors and garage door are the same as those later used on the Split Level House, while the doors and garage door were later used on the Factory. In 2006, a "Plasticville Collectors Association 5th Anniversary Commemorative Issue" was released with dark PCA blue walls and light gray roof. Only 348 of these units were manufactured.

NEW ENGLAND RANCH HOUSE (MH-2, 1701, 1808, 1912, 1986, 5701)

The New England Ranch House was first available in 1954 under the designation MH-2. In 1956, the number was changed to #1701 and renamed 1½ Story Rancher. Ten years later the number was changed again to #1808 and this is the most difficult box to obtain because it was only available for five years. The photograph on

this box is a reverse image of the actual structure. A Pliofilm bag version was issued in 1963 as #5701. The #1912 box was released in 1971. The #1986 issue is one of eight structures that were part of the 1980 "Scenic Classic" series, which included two Citizens and an Automobile. The windows on the New England Ranch House are shared with the Two-Story House and the Split Level House. The Lionel "Farm Set" #986, issued in 1962, included a white with green trim New England Ranch House, a white with red trim Barn and 18 Barnyard Animals.

VEHICLE ASSORTMENT (V-6, V-10, 1802, 45987)

In 1954, Bachmann came out with "a fine assortment of vehicles to lend realism and action to your Plasticville 'pike' or village." The ten-piece V-10 Vehicle Assortment included two Jet Planes, four Automobiles, a Ladder Truck and a Pumper Engine, one Ambulance and a Bus. The V-6 followed in 1952 with two Automobiles, a Ladder Truck and a Pumper Engine, one Ambulance and one Bus. Bachmann never issued the vehicles contained in these assortments separately. The only way to obtain them was by purchasing these assortments, getting them in the Master Units or selected individual kits. The problem with these assortments is the boxes, which were very flimsy. These were the only boxes that were issued that had an open front displaying the contents behind a clear cellophane wrapper. This wrapper is easily lost and the boxes are easily crushed. This Assortment was cataloged through 1958.

The following vehicles and colors were issued for these assortments: Jet Planes (fighter and bomber) – silver-gray; Automobiles – red, orange, yellow, green, dark green, pastel blue, gray blue,



The advertisement features the Lionel Trains logo on the left, which consists of a stylized 'L' inside a circle. To the right of the logo, the text "LIONEL TRAINS" is written in large, bold, red capital letters, and "MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ" is written in bold, black capital letters below it. Below the text, there are two train models: a black steam locomotive on the left and a red diesel locomotive on the right. The steam locomotive has "SANTA FE" and "4193" written on its side. The diesel locomotive is red with yellow and white accents. The background is white with a subtle pattern.

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turquoise, dark blue, aqua, black; fire engines (Ladder Truck and Pumper Engine) – red; Ambulances – orange, gray, dark blue; Buses – orange and gray.. The Ambulance and Bus have also been seen in tan; these vehicles seem to be quite rare and their lineage is unknown. A scarce dark blue Bus is believed to have originated in the Lionel “Highway Set” #955 and the Lionel “Vehicle Set” #958 that was made under licensed from Bachmann in 1958 only.

Bachmann used two different mold styles to create the Automobiles. The different types are easily distinguished by the presence of a hood ornament. The molds also were numbered and stamped under the roof. The numbers 1 through 6 were used for automobiles with no hood ornament, and 0, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 were used with the automobiles with hood ornaments (0 was used in place of the 9 to avoid being confused with 6).

Vehicles were included with some of the building kits. In 1954, an Automobile was added to the Police Department, a Ladder Truck to the Fire House, two Jet Planes to the Airport Hangar,

and a Bus to the School House. The next year an Automobile was part of the newly-introduced large Gas Station. Two year later the Police Department, Fire House and School House lost their vehicles; however, the Airport Hangar retained its two Jet Planes until its demise in 1958. The earlier Motels came with three Automobiles, and the Automobile remained with the Gas Station through 1967. Upon its reintroduction in 1976, the Fire House came with two fire engines. Automobiles were included with several of the “Scenic Classics” in the early 1980s: #1988 Factory, #1983 Colonial Mansion, #1985 Log Cabin Retreat and #1986 New England Rancher.

Vehicle Assortment kit #45987, issued in 1997, features a Bus, Car, Ambulance and fire engine. These kits contained two new colors for Ambulances and Buses – yellow and dark green. Building kits issued during the 1990s also saw new vehicle colors. The #45610 Fire House saw the introduction of yellow fire engines and the #45986 Airport Hangar included four olive green Jet Planes.

THE YORK REPORT APRIL 2019

JOHN NIEHAUS #00-03

Both meetings of members were very nicely attended. The morning meeting had about 33 attendees. The evening meeting had in the vicinity of 14 attendees. Due to the turnout for the evening meeting we will continue it for the October York.

I was ill-prepared for these meetings and even forgot to bring anything, paper or tablet, on which to take notes. My excuse is that I had just returned the previous Sunday from a weeklong trip to New Orleans with my wife. Actually 10 days figuring in the driving as the wife has issues with air travel. Monday was somewhat of a recovery day and trying to get ready for York. Tuesday was a work day. Wednesday I was on my way at 4:00 AM to the airport.

Unique items were presented at both meetings. Fred Stillwell - please excuse me if I am in error and send me a correction if I am - displayed two sets of front and side walls of the Union Station joined back to back by a center wall that he created using a 3D printer. It will be interesting to see where he goes from here with this project.

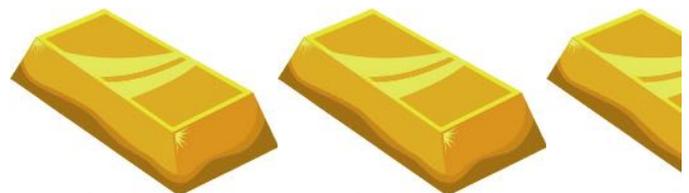
I believe it was former member Jim Farace - again, please excuse me if I am in error and send me a correction if I am - presented copies of the Beemak Hollywood Cottage and the Plasticville Cape Cod House. If memory serves me correctly, the Beemak piece was in the early Beemak Matchbox Village box. (One of my research projects once I am no longer your Secretary/Treasurer is attempt to find out more information on the plastic village side of Beemak. Beemak is still a viable company in Los Angeles to the best of my understanding.)

I brought what I feel is the most pristine copy of the "Win A Trip To Disneyland" entry blank I have ever seen. It was found either

in a Hospital or Airport Hanger box while going through a large lot that I had recently bought. In addition to the entry blank I also displayed what I feel are close to the two cleanest copies of the Littletown 1955 and 1956/1957 color catalogs. Both are original and in pristine condition. I recently purchased these in order to have an excellent copy of the 1955 catalog to scan and add to the Littletown section of the PCA website.

Well, what about Plasticville prices? The prices were all over the board. One could find the most common pieces at reasonable prices or if one looked a bit further they could pay pre-recession prices. Prices were mostly where I would expect them to be at York. A bit more than I would be willing to part with at a local show but typical York. There were a few large sets on one table in the blue hall but all were priced at \$150 or more. I had seen them in the Reliance Fire Hall on Wednesday and passed on them then as I did not believe that I could purchase any of them for what I felt was a reasonable price. I did pick up a partial TA-1 Train Accessories Unit in the Orange hall on Saturday at a very reasonable price.

My overall feeling is that the prices being asked were reasonable with a very small minority of those who still seem to believe that they can ask pre-recession prices. I'm going to give this York 2 ½ gold bars.



WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

Tractive effort is the way most steam locomotives are rated or judged. Another way is boiler pressure, but tractive effort seems to be the standard. So, how is it calculated? We all probably think that they couple a great big scale to the tender coupler, (like testing a Lionel O gauge engine) then the engineer opens the throttle, and someone goes back and reads the scale. Answer, 60,000 pounds of tractive effort. Well, not exactly, as that's too simple, plus, almost impossible to actually do. So, here's the way tractive effort is calculated. It's a formula. Really. Here it is:

$$t = \frac{d^2 sp}{w} \times 85\%$$

where t is the tractive effort, d is piston diameter, s is the piston stroke, p is the working pressure and w is the diameter of the driving wheels. All distances are measured in inches and the pressure is measured in psi. The 0.85 is to account for friction and steam leakage. There you have it. So, it's really not how much the engine and engineer are straining to get the locomotive moving under load, but simply a mathematical formula. The two answers are always similar, but not exactly equal. Try it, it works.

Jim Steed, #01-55

I recently purchased a collection from an elderly gentleman in Pennsylvania. My dealings were actually with his daughter who lived in New Jersey. During our various email and telephone conversations she told me that he father had worked for Topper Toys. She recently sent me an email stating that her uncle, now deceased had worked for Topper Toys and that her father worked for J.G. Tilip as a mold maker. John Niehaus #0-3

Hi John,

I am sorry it took so long to get this to you. Unfortunately, I stated his employer incorrectly to you in our earlier conversations (it was not Topper Toys, it was J.G. Tilp) I believe my Dad's brother, Johnny worked at Topper Toys but Uncle Johnny is deceased. Here is a brief narrative from my father -we hope this is helpful to you and your members. ...

From Ed Del Tufo-as best I can recall -- I am 84 years old now in April of 2019!

I worked at J.G. Tilp from 1956 through 1962. J.G. Tilp was a mold making company for the plastics industry. Shortly after I got home from the Korean War in 1955, I got a job as an apprentice mold maker. One of the companies we built molds for was the company that made Plasticville Village .

The toy companies management always wanted everything done right and so did the company I worked for! When you built a mold, the top half must meet the bottom half precisely on. If one was out of line, the plastic piece you were molding would overlap and not meet exactly, therefore, it would be an inferior product. As a mold maker-- there was no margin for error.

I very much enjoyed working on these molds.

Ed Del Tufo

Like most people, I use Facebook. So I went to the PCA Facebook page and saw that 524 people liked it, even though it appears to be unmonitored. The PCA might be missing an opportunity to engage members and get new members. If you want to allow members to join it as a closed group, I could volunteer to monitor it. I get on Facebook daily anyway. Let members post pictures and comments.

James Rohrer, #19-1085

In the last issue, March 2019, Matt, our Editor, wrote a small article about the clock face on the Plasticville Union Station. Matt's point was to indicate that there were two station fascia or roof peaks containing the clock and the UNION STATION name. Namely, that the first Union Station's clock was a molded one, and the latter clock was a sticker that was applied to the flat fascia. I would also like to add, that not only was the first clock a molded one, as Matt pointed out, but that it actually was a snap on clock and wings. Two holes were in the station fascia allowing two snap in pins located behind the clock and wings to be pushed through the fascia to secure the clock and wings onto the fascia, thus securing the clock in place. This provided quite a good looking clock with relief emphasized making it far more attractive than the latter sticker clock.

Jim Steed, #01-55

Hunting for strange and unusual Plasticville.



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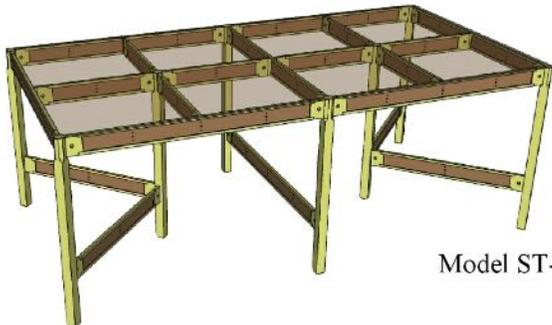
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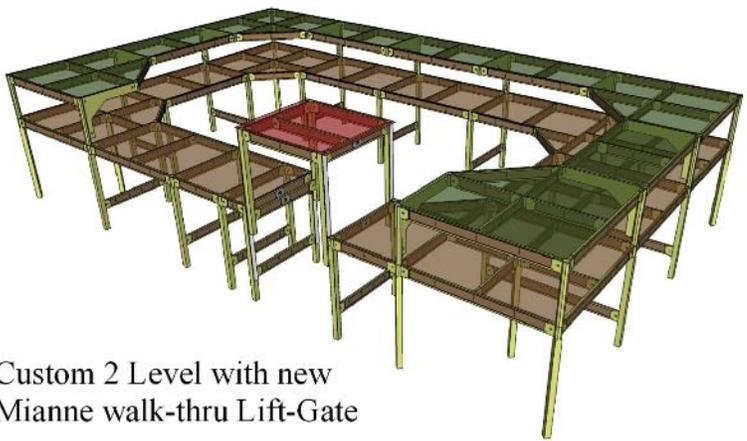
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There are no complete buildings in the listings below - only parts.

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	Greenhouse	Trestle Bridge
Misc doors & windows	Hardware & Pharmacy	Turnpike Interchange
12-A Railroad & Street Signs	Hobo Shacks	TV Station
Airport Administration Building	Hospital	Two Story House
Airport Hangar	House Fence	Union Station
American Flyer Scenic Panel bridge	House Fence Gate	Watchman's Shanty
American Flyer Two Story House	House Under Construction	Water Tank
Apartment House	Large Gas Station	Windmill
Auburn Log Cabin	Large Super Market	Wishing Well
Bank	Loading Platform	
Billboard frames	Log Cabin	HO Miscellaneous window inserts
Block City fence	Maple Trees	HO Misc doors & windows
BN-1 Barn	Mobile Home	HO Bank
Bridge & Pond	Motel	HO Barn
Bungalow	New England Rancher	HO Cape Cod House
Cape Cod	Picket Fence	HO Cathedral
Cathedral	Picket Fence - no posts	HO Cattle Pen
Cattle Pen	Picket Fence - posts only	HO Coaling Station
CC7 & 8 Church	Playground Equipment	HO Contemporary House
CC-9 Church	Police Station	HO Factory
Chain Store (5&10)	Post Office	HO Fire House
Christmas Tree - no bases	Railroad Work Car	HO Gas Station
Coaling Tower	Ranch House	HO Hardware Pharmacy
Colonial Church	Roadside Stand	HO Hobby Shop
Colonial Mansion	Rustic Fence	HO House Under Construction
Corner Store	Rustic Gate	HO Motel
Covered Bridge	School House	HO New Car Showroom
Crossing Gate	Signal Bridge	HO Police Station
Dairy Barn	Small Gas Station	HO Post Office
Diner	Small Super Market	HO Railroad Work Car
Drug Store	Split Level	HO Ranch House
Evergreen Trees - no bases	Spruce Tree	HO School House
Factory	ST-1 Street Accessories	HO Signal Bridge
Farm Buildings	Station Platform	HO Split Level
Fire House	Street Lights	HO Suburban Station
Flagpole	Suburban Station	HO Super Market
Footbridge	Switch Tower	HO Switch Tower
Frosted Flakes Billboard - no feet or lights	Telephone Poles	HO Theater
Frosty Bar	Town Hall	HO TV Station

Donations to The Parts Bin are a Win-Win proposition!

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First 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



HO Two Story House	Marx RR & Street signs	1403 Signal Bridge - fair
HO Union Station	Marx Rustic Fence - specify color	AD-4 Airport Admin Bldg - poor
K-Line Chicken Coop	Marx School House	RH-1 Ranch House, marked blue/white - fair
K-Line Church	Marx Statue of Liberty base	LM-3 Freight Station - poor
K-Line L-Shaped Ranch	Marx Supermarket	MH-2 New England Ranch - fair
K-Line Ranch House	Marx Telephone Poles	1985 Log Cabin Retreat - good
K-Line Suburban Station	Skyline Church	12-A Road Signs, no insert - poor
K-Line Two Story House	Skyline Ranch	LH-4 2 Story House, marked white - poor
Lionel RR & Street Signs	MISC street & rr signs	2600 Water Tank (HO box) - good
Littletown Barn	Frosted Flakes Billboard - no feet or lights	1606 Barnyard Animals - fair
Littletown Cape Cod	EMPTY BOXES	HO-70 Frosty Bar (HO box) - fair
Littletown Church	1622 Dairy Barn	2606 Contemporary House (HO box) - poor
Littletown Corner Store	1803 Colonial Church - poor	2700 Coaling Station (HO box) - excellent
Littletown Gas Station	1407 Watchman's Shanty	1701 R R Work Car (HO box) - good
Littletown General Store	CC-9 Church Kit	RH-1 Ranch House, marked white/green - excellent
Littletown Loading Platform	5200 Roadside Rest	45612 Trailer Park - excellent
Littletown Ranch	1906 Factory	45526 Joes Pizza & Video Shop (HO box) - excellent
Littletown RR Station	RH-1 Ranch House	45521 Rural Station (HO box) - good
Littletown School House	1600 Church	45534 Pink Lady Boutique (HO box) - excellent
Littletown Southern Colonial House	1408 Windmill	1701 1 1/2 Story Rancher - good
Littletown Super Market	1502 Cape Cod	1700 2 Story Colonial - fair
Marx 3 rail fence - oval feet	1776 Independence Hall	K-Line K-4150 L-Shaped Ranch, illustration sticker on box - excellent
Marx 3-rail fence - triangle feet	1406 Playground	K-Line K-4150 L-Shaped Ranch, full view on front of box - excellent
Marx Accessories	PF-4 People with Color Kit	K-Line K-4120 Ranch House, illustration sticker on box - excellent
Marx Barn	1605 People with Color Kit	Lionel 6-12711 Water Tower
Marx Church	1619 Plasticville Citizens	#10, #30, #5 Twinkletown Houses build it yourself kits
Marx Colonial House	SW-2 Switch Tower	
Marx Diner	SG-3 Signal Bridge	
Marx Factory	SM-6 Small Supermarket - poor but has inner liner	
Marx Firehouse	RA-6 Railroad Accessories	
Marx General Store	1624 House under Construction - poor	
Marx House Fence	1907 Apartment House - fair	
Marx House Fence Gate	RS-8 Suburban Station	
Marx L Ranch House	1621 Motel	
Marx Railroad Station		
Marx Ranch House		



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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

The Glue Lopper, Version 2, made in the U.S.A. by Creative Dynamic LLC. \$13.50. This product is a small volume precision cyanoacrylate glue placement tool. It comes with twelve glue placement "loops": four small, four medium, and four large. The loops are metal configurations with a loop on the business end. The other end fits into a common craft knife handle or the separately purchased (\$6.00) Glue Lopper Handle. The included instructions note that the Lopper only works with very low viscosity cyanoacrylate. Their website offers a low viscosity cyanoacrylate in a 1 ounce bottle for \$5.00. I am going to presume that any other low viscosity product would work as well.

What is my impression of this product? Impressed. I am certain that I used it in a manner other than what is shown on their website where two pieces are glued together that have been taped into position. All of my uses below were used utilizing one of the provided medium loops.

I first glued back together a broken gooseneck streetlight. One of my major issues with using CYA is that it is extremely difficult to exactly place glue when using a drop type bottle. Even a brush applicator tends to spread glue over areas near where I actually need the glue. I used the Lopper as a paintbrush to lightly "paint" both broken pieces with CYA. I was able to actually touch the external area around the joint that I had just painted without getting the CYA on my fingers!

My next experiment was to glue back together a broken Cathedral wall. The outer tab that slides together with an adjoining wall was broken away from the wall. I carefully positioned the two pieces on a piece of waxed paper and touched the joint with the Lopper. Viola, the glue flowed into the almost imperceptible joint. A few seconds later and the wall was "restored".

My last experiment was a "doozy". The eyeglass case that I use for a pair of my glasses had started to come apart. The leather outer cover had come loose from the metal case. In addition half

of the liner had come loose from the metal case. I taped the ends of the area that was loose in its correct position. I then used the Lopper to place glue on the inner side of the metal case and then hold the center of the loose part of the outer cover in place. I then proceeded to work both ways from the center to glue the remainder of the loose cover to the metal case. The curve of the Lopper allowed me to add glue where I would not have been able to do so with a brush or drop bottle. Essentially adding glue "in the blind". I then glued the liner back in place by holding it and letting the glue flow from the Lopper into the small crevice between the liner and the previously glued outer cover. I now have a fully restored eyeglass case.

The video on Creative Dynamic's website shows two pieces held in place by small strips of tape prior to gluing and the glue being applied to the joint between the two pieces. That is also what I saw in a live demonstration at a local train show. I believe that I have found a couple of other ways to use the Lopper. It worked well as an applicator and as a device that allowed me to place glue where needed when I could not see the location. I recommend the The Glue Lopper as it performed better than I expected.

The Glue Lopper, Version 2 as well as Versions 3 and 4, along with The Glue Lopper handle, and two different viscosities of cyanoacrylate glue from their website at <http://www.creativedynamicllc.com>. I found all three versions of The Glue Lopper on Amazon. Oddly the price for version 2 was higher than on Creative Dynamic's website.



On The Fly, Hobo Literature & Songs, 1879-1941, edited by Iain McIntyre, 515 pages, softcover, 6x9 format, \$27.95. Published by PM Press. Black & white photos throughout. Each photo is on its own separate page.

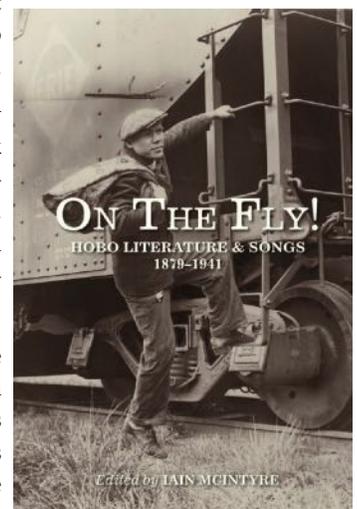
The title of this book caught my attention as I had never read anything about the hobo experience in this country. Especially from a hobo's point of view. I was surprised by the names of well known performers who were noted as being hobos at one time. One in particular I remember for his recording of *Big Rock Candy Mountain*. That performer was none other than Burl Ives.

This book is an anthology of hobo stories and hobo songs. There is a total of eighty five stories or song lyrics. I will call them chapters from now on. Each chapter is independent of the previous or next chapter. They vary in length from two pages for most songs up to over ten pages for some of the hobo dialogue chapters. The editor nicely prefaces each chapter with explanatory dialogue that adds relevance to what one is about to read. This

is where you find the trivia regarding who was a hobo before "making it big" or at least breaking out of being a hobo for the remainder of their lives.

I was pleased to find a few pages at the end of this book that defined some of the colloquial terms used by the hobos. Surprisingly, quite a few seem to have made it into the American language.

Following the chapters and the hobo colloquialisms listing is a listing of the various sources used in the compiling of this book. It is followed by a single paragraph about the author



and an index. This book is a definite eye opener when it comes to understanding just how hard the life of a hobo was. I found it extremely interesting and feel it will be a good read if you are interested in learning hobo history from those who "wrote" it.

Railroads for Michigan, Graydon M Meints, 523 pages, hardcover, 8 3/4 X 11 3/4, \$49.95. Published by Michigan State University Press. Black and white photos, timetables and other related materials throughout.

How many Michigan railroads never got past the charter stage? How many Michigan railroads never got past the grading stage? How many Michigan railroads never got past laying track? If you are interested then make a chart and start reading this book. I am almost certain that all of these questions will be answered in spades.

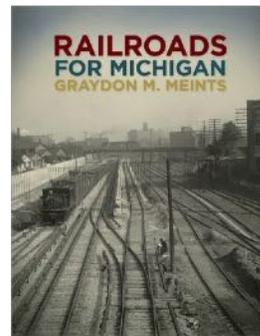
The book is a bit unique at it does not have the customary Introduction or Acknowledgements but starts right in with the first chapter, "The Pioneer Years, 1830-1855.

There are six additional chapters, "The Railroad Comes of Age, 1855-1875", "The Explosive Years, 1875-1897", "The Golden Years, 1897-1921", "The Roaring Twenties, the Depression, and World War II, 1920-1945", "The Waning Years, 1945-1976", "The Return of the Rails, 1976-2000". Following the chapters is an afterword where the author has chosen to place his Acknowledgments. Following that is a bibliography as well as an index. The bibliography is a whopping 23 pages. The alphabetical index, not to be outdone is 33 pages.

The chapters are like major headings with, for lack of a better term, sub-chapters in them. Chapter three has over twelve of these sub-chapters. Each is followed by a bibliography related to each sub-chapter's subject. There are numerous sidebars in the chapters also. They range from charts, and maps, to biographies of men associated with railroading in Michigan.

On The Fly, is available from the PM Press at <http://pmpress.org>. It is also available as an eBook for \$8.95. I found the book available on Amazon's website in both softcover and Kindle format.

It took me a bit longer than usual to read this book but I am glad that I did. I know a lot more now about the railroads in Michigan, from their founding to when this book was published. Here are a couple of facts that I gleaned during my reading. The first railroad labor organization, The Brotherhood of the Footboard, was founded in Marshall, MI in about 1863. The Salem train wreck of July 20, 1907 remains the worst in Michigan railroad history.



This has to be one of the best researched books related to a subject as encompassing as railroads in a specific State. In addition to railroads it also includes streetcars, interurban, and ferries. I recommend it unconditionally.

Railroads for Michigan is available from the Michigan State University Press at <http://msupress.org>. There is a search option in the upper right hand corner of the window, click on it, type in the book name and you are on your way to some very well-researched reading. An eBook edition is also available from the website at \$39.95. It is listed on Barnes & Noble's website for the same price but seems to be available also through second party sellers through a "Marketplace" link. It is available on Amazon's website with prices starting at \$33.61.

POST OFFICE ISSUES TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD STAMPS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

The United States Postal Service issued a sheet of stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad stamp on May 10, the 150th anniversary date of the driving of the golden spike at Promontory Summit, Utah. The stamps depict, respectively, the Central Pacific's Jupiter, a golden Spike, and the Union Pacific's number 119 in a horizontal row of three. The Jupiter and #119 face each other with the golden spike stamp between them. There are a total of six rows on the sheet. The stamps are finely detailed and printed in color with the borders of the two engine stamps printed in gold as well as the majority of the golden spike stamp. Be aware that the golden spike stamp in the middle is just that, a postage stamp.

This sheet is sure to be popular with not only stamp collectors and train buffs but also the general public. They are one of the best designed postage stamps I have seen in quite some time.

The sheet should be available at your local Post Office if not sold out. My Post Office only received fifty sheets for a city of over fifty thousand people. They are also available by mail order through the USPS' website as shown below. You may also be able to order them by phone using 1-800-782-6724.



https://store.usps.com/store/product/buy-stamps/transcontinental-railroad-S_570404

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Ending September 2019

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.

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Ending September 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

Ending March 2020

Need green plastic Christmas tree for Royal and/or NOMA Hard plastic snowman or Santa's Vintage 1950s Christmas decoration. #10-626 Bryan Bennett, 759 Turj Ave NE, Palm Bay, FL 32907 Ph. 321-725-5973.

LITTLETOWN: figure chopping wood, farmer's wife, seated man, man with grip, cream roof sign for General Store, Loading Platform grey smokestack yellow roof support, red Railroad Station Roof sign, Spruce tree, Boulevard light, red trash can, red mailbox, telephone pole. PLASTICVILLE: complete Maple trees. #00-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 johnln@netins.net.

FOR TRADE

Ending June 2019

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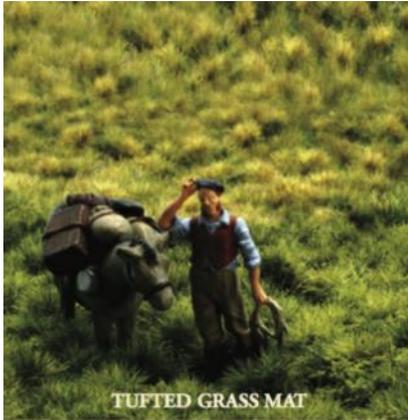
- Do you have buildings or parts that you would like to sell and without the hassle of Internet auction sites?
- Do you have buildings or parts that you would like to trade?
- Do you have buildings or parts that you want but don't seem to be available on Internet auction sites or at train meets?

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

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.

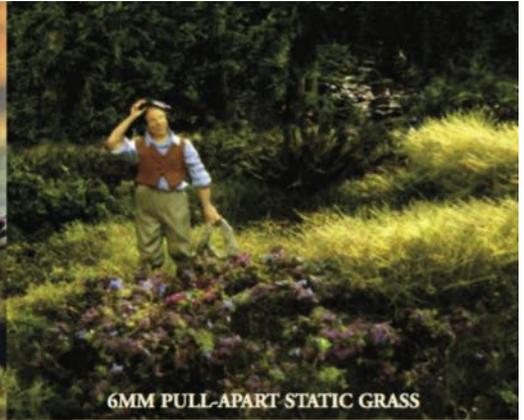




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Item No. 31033



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