



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

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Number 2

FIRE CHIEF HELMETS

CHARLES SWANSON

I'm sure most members are familiar with the Red Fire Chief Pencil Sharpener Helmet found in the Plasticville Make 'n' Play Jr Chief Fire Dept set.



But did you know that the same plastic helmet was used for some type of Texaco promotion?



What is different is the paper shield attached to the front of helmet. It has Texaco and their red Star logo printed top center, while the Bachmann version, has the word Plasticville in very small black type in between some unknown design and the word Fire. The outside border around shield of the Texaco version is wider than the Plasticville version and dark green in color.

There is a saying, which came first: The chicken or the egg. Think this could apply to these two examples, and raises a number of questions. Was the Texaco version made before the Bachmann version, or vice versa? Who actually produced these helmets?

Did Bachmann make for their Jr Chief set, or did they buy from some other manufacturer and commission their own paper shield. The actual helmet itself does not have any manufacturer markings, so it is unknown who actually produced these. I question whether Bachmann made such, as they typically included some type of Plasticville designation in their molding.

I suspect there must be some type of ad or paperwork out there, from around the mid 1950's, possibly promoting the Texaco Fire Chief helmet. This would be helpful in possibly answering the question of which one of these Fire Chief Helmets came first.

I have two theories. One: that the Texaco version was made first, and by another manufacturer, then someone with Bachmann saw them, thought it would be interesting to include a version of their own in a set. Two: that Bachmann originally made them for a Texaco promotion, so left out any manufacturer referencing in the mold, had some left over and decided to include in a unique set of their own. However this raises another question, who made the paper shields, which were attached to the helmet.

If any member has any information or knowledge regarding the Texaco helmet, please share it with our members.

The Villager

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K-LINE BUILDINGS: THE JC PENNY CONNECTION



DONALD W. HUOVINEN

The 1990 JC Penny Christmas Catalog, page 503, featured an uncataloged set, K-1922, The Santa Fe Workhorse. JC Penny's item number for the set was XU 671-5502 A. This work train set included K-2313 Santa Fe S-2 Diesel, K-6522 Santa Fe MOW Gondola with Crates, K-7206 Santa Fe MOW Operating Searchlight Car, K-6629 Santa Fe MOW Flat Car with rails, K-6807 Santa Fe MOW Crane Car, K-6856 Santa Fe Boom Car, "8 "working" figures", K-4176 Telephone Poles (5), K-4179 12 Railroad Yard Signs, as well as track, lockon, and transformer. A stunning set! But what is of more interest to plastic building collectors is the invitation to "Complete The Set With K-Lineville® Buildings". The "Assortment includes six 0-27 gauge buildings for trains. 93 pieces in all. Suburban station, colonial house, schoolhouse, and firehouse, church, and a gas station. Also includes 33 figures, 4 autos, a fire truck and over 50 other accessories. Complete village to add to any 0-27 train set." And all for \$49.99. But you could "SAVE \$20 When You Buy Train Set...In Conjunction With Building Set". K-Line's designation for the Building Set was K-4000-JCP; JC Penny's item number was XU 671-5536A. A scan of a portion of the catalog page is shown below. In general all of the buildings were common regular issue items, being individually packaged in a 2 piece box with a printed label affixed to one end. However the accessories included in the K-4091 Firehouse and the K-4061 Schoolhouse were

colored differently from those normally included with these buildings. All six boxes are shown in Photo 1. A close-up of the end of a box is shown in Photo 2. The buildings included were:

K-4050 COLONIAL HOUSE IN A VARIETY OF COLORS WITH FIGURES AND FENCE.

The house had unpainted white walls and cupola, unpainted black door, shutters, and chimney. Also included were 12 white fence pieces, and 5 figures: woman and child, girl jumping rope, boy roller skating, milkman, and workman carrying package over left shoulder.

K-4111 CHURCH COMPLETE WITH FIGURES AND FENCE.

The church had unpainted white walls, unpainted pastel blue roof, doors and windows and an unpainted blue cross. Also



Photo 1.

F The K-Line® Santa Fe Workhorse is Loaded With Fun. 0-27 gauge S-2 switcher features 8-wheel drive with 2 motors, metal chassis and hand-rails, operating couplers, working lights at both ends, and 3 position rev unit. Also includes gondola with removable crates, operating search light car, rail car, operating crane car, boom car, 8 "working" figures, 5 telephone poles, and 12 railroad yard signs. Measures 45x27 in. overall. Warranted by manufacturer—write for copy, see page 376. UL listed. * 20 volts AC. Some assembly required—no tools needed, instructions included. Ages 8-adult. Made in U.S. and imported from China. Del. wt. 14 lbs.
XU 671-5502 A 199.99

G Complete The Set With K-Lineville® Buildings. Assortment includes six 0-27 gauge buildings for trains, 93 pieces in all. Suburban station, colonial house, schoolhouse, and firehouse, church, and a gas station. Also includes 33 figures, 4 autos, a firetruck and over 50 other accessories. Complete village to add to any 0-27 train set. Requires assembly—no tools needed, instructions included. Ages 8-adult. Del. wt. 6 lbs.
XU 671-5536 A 49.99
Save \$20 When You Buy Train Set [F] In Combination With Building Set [G]. If bought separately they would cost \$249.98, buy combination and pay only \$229.98.

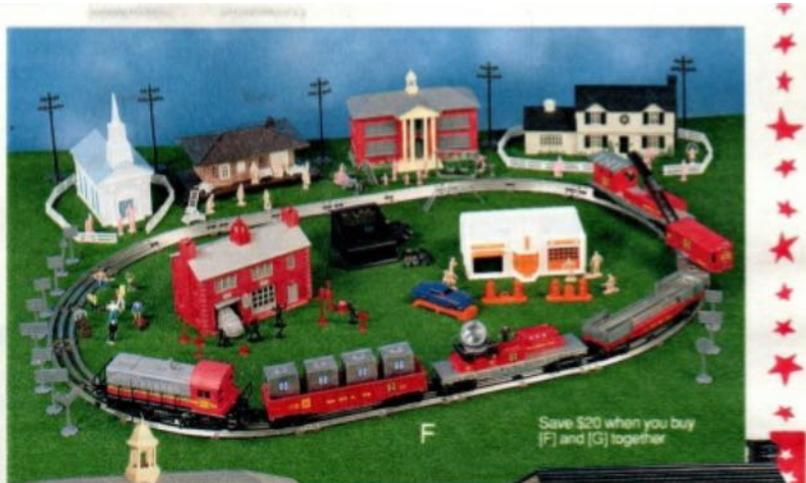




Photo 2.

included were 12 white fence pieces, and 5 figures: preacher, groom, bride, woman walking, and woman with child.

K-4072 SERVICE STATION COMPLETE WITH AUTO, FIGURES, AND ACCESSORIES

The service station had unpainted white stucco walls, with orange windows and doors. Also included were an orange lift, orange gas pumps with tire, orange gas pumps with oil can display, dark blue Ford Thunderbird, and 5 figures: man rolling tire, attendant carrying oil can, attendant wiping windshield, attendant with an air hose, and an attendant on one knee checking tire pressure.

K-4031 SUBURBAN STATION COMPLETE WITH FIGURES AND ACCESSORIES

The station had unpainted white walls, unpainted dark brown roof and platform, and unpainted caramel windows and doors. Also included were a small handtruck with baggage, baggage cart with baggage, dolly with handle, bench, large handtruck without baggage, and 6 figures: woman and child, newsboy, man wearing overcoat carrying something in left hand, conductor, porter, and man wearing suit walking.

K-4091 FIREHOUSE COMPLETE WITH TRUCK, FIGURES, AND ACCESSORIES

The firehouse had unpainted red walls, unpainted gray windows, doors, signs, and roof. There were 10 blue accessories: bench, fire hydrant, mail box on stand, trash can, Police call box, STOP sign, FIRE ZONE sign, street sign "ELM/OAK", and street lamp with street sign "ASH". These accessories were normally red and are shown as such in the catalog. An unpainted gray firetruck and 5 unpainted black figures: firechief, fireman running, fireman with hose, boy with fireman's helmet and carrying boots, and a Dalmatian

K-4061 SCHOOL & PLAYGROUND COMPLETE WITH FIGURES

The school had unpainted red walls, unpainted light gray roof, unpainted dark gray windows and front door, unpainted cream rear steps, cupola, rear door and columns and unpainted green shrubs. There were 7 unpainted silver accessories: swing with red supports, slide, bike rack, monkey bars, bike, water fountain, and sled. These accessories were normally red or orange. Also included were 6 unpainted pink figures: teacher, boy on bicycle, girl carrying books, boy roller skating, and 2 little girls with ice cream cones.

I cannot reconcile the differences between what was included and the catalog description. Other than to recognize that catalog descriptions are notoriously incorrect. The catalog description

itself is erroneous as it specifies there are "93 pieces in all", yet if you add the items described there were "over" 94! The catalog photo shows only one auto-the Ford on the car lift which was included in the Service Station. No sign of the other three autos. There were 32 separate individual figures included not 33 as listed.

As previously stated the buildings included in this set are all common variations of their respective buildings. At one time the two piece boxes with the printed label were sometimes offered for sale on the ubiquitous Internet auction site but as these are now 30 years old they are becoming increasingly scarce...What uniquely identifies this set is the shipping carton. The shipping carton is simply a cardboard box but is identified as K-4000-JCP. This shipping carton is shown in Photo 3. Of special note the box was shipped directly by K-Line to the JC Penny Catalog Center in Manchester, CT (Photo 4). As a personal note, the shipping box used to be in better condition but Hurricane Florence took care of that.



Photo 3.



Photo 4.

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

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EDITOR'S COLUMN



Welcome to the second online newsletter and the first (and hopefully only) newsletter written during COVID-19 global pandemic. Once again you will notice that the length of the newsletter is shrinking. I am very thankful to Tom Fritsch for providing his 10-part history of Plasticville series that wraps up in this issue. This was enjoyable to read. It is pretty amazing to think about how long Plasticville has been manufactured. I am also happy to feature two articles from Charles Swanson, who sent these in a while back but got lost on my computer. Make sure to search for Charles' interesting Small Gas Station variation in this issue. Don Huovinen and John Niehaus continue to provide excellent content for the newsletter as well.

I would hope with more time being spent inside over the last few months everyone has had some time to enjoy their collections. Perhaps you have expanded or remodeled your layout, reorganized your collection, or stated on a new creation from old parts. If you have I would strongly encourage you to submit a short write-up and some photos about your recent project. This can be a one time article or the start to a reoccurring series.

Again I have to warn that if we do not continue to get new content I foresee the end of the newsletter ending which would be a shame.

Matt Harvazinski, *The Villager* Editor

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PLASTICVILLE IN THE 2020 BACHMANN TRAINS CATALOG

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

The 2020 Bachmann trains catalog is now available as a PDF download and in print form. The PDF is available online at Bachmann's website. A hard copy catalog can be ordered for \$13 plus shipping and handling from their website: <http://www.bachmanntrains.com/home-usa/index.php>

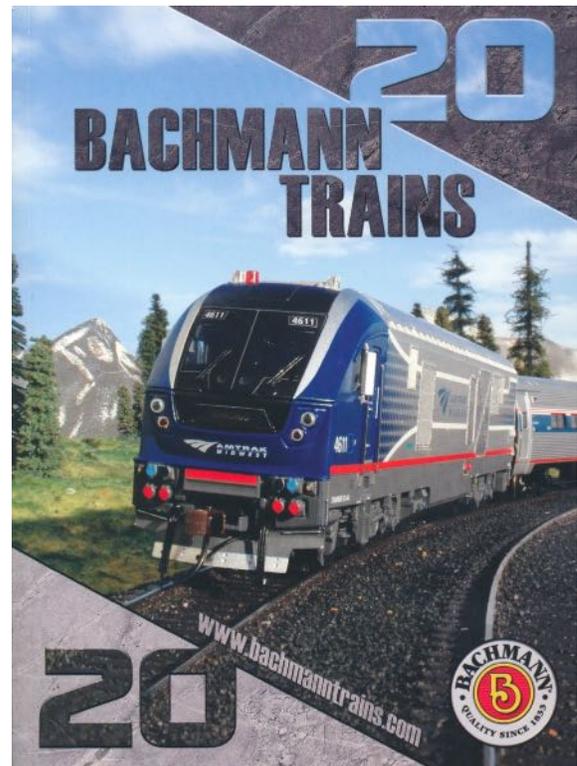
All Plasticville pieces and other detail pieces are again listed in the Buildings and Accessories subsection of the Landscape, Buildings, Figures, and Accessories section. This is the same format as last year. This is the third year, at least, where Plasticville has not had its own section.

The same N scale pieces in the 2019 catalog appear again in this year's issue for a total of eight. Prices for all of the pieces increased by \$3 over that of last year. Fortunately, the footprints for the pieces are still included as a part of each illustration again this year. Sadly the color of the text used for the footprints blends into the background of the illustrations to the point of making it difficult to read them.

All twenty seven of the HO pieces appearing in last year's catalog returned this year with one exception. The 45143 Hardware Store has been replaced by the 45147 Hardware Store. The catalog lists it as having white walls with red roof and doors. The catalog price is "to be announced" but my guess is that it will be the same as the similarly sized 5 & 10 store which is listed at \$21.50. Every piece saw a price increase. Oddly, some increased by only fifty cents while others increased by \$1. As with last year, the footprints are part of the building's illustration in some instances whereas others are part of the text below the illustration. Separately listed footprints are noted for each piece where multiple items make up the catalog number.

There are only twenty seven O/S Plasticville pieces listed in the catalog this year. That includes the Rustic Fence. You may want to check your local hobby store for the green Turnpike Interchange if you don't have one as it is no longer listed in the 2020 catalog nor on the Bachmann website. Dropping this piece was a surprise to me as I am usually aware of a piece being discontinued through updates from Bachmann.

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 catalog number. The listed price of all of the pieces increased between fifty cents and \$2.

The 2020 catalog is free to download on Bachmann's website as a PDF. Since all of the Plasticville listings are all lumped together it is quite easy to access them. The link to download the catalog is: https://resources.bachmanntrains.com/Bachmann_2020. You will be presented with the catalog cover page when the link opens. Hover over the down arrow at the top, center, of the page then click the download option. Select PDF when prompted. This will start a download of the complete 2020 catalog. The start of the Plasticville listings are on page 247 but due to some quirk you will need to enter 259 in the "go to page number" field to navigate to the first page of Plasticville listings.

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1981 Farm Building Scenic Classic \$35	1923 Roadside Stand \$20 Mint
0400 Mobile Home (Blue or Cream walls) \$10 Mint	1809 Loading Platform \$15 Mint
0500 King Apartment House (Brown) \$30	1607 Fire Dept W/DARK GREY SIREN\$75
0550 King Add A Floor (Brown or Red) \$8 each 3/\$20	FH-4 Fire Dept W/LIGHT GREY SIREN \$75
1504 Trailer \$30	1987 Barn Scenic Classic \$18 Mint
1983 Colonial Mansion Scenic Classic \$20 Mint	1624 House Under Construction \$30
1984 Colonial Church Scenic Classic \$25 Mint	1804 Greenhouse, \$30
1985 Log Cabin under boxed \$30	45986 LCCA Hangar, \$20 Mint
1611 Hardware & Pharmacy (Rare Art Deco box) \$45	ON-5 Outdoor Necessities \$35
45985 LCCA Air Admin Bldg Orange/Blue, \$20 Mint	1913 Motel (No auto's) \$12

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, Telephone Booth(Never assembled) 7 pieces \$6 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: original walls, roofs, canopies,
platforms, steps, Hobo Shacks: original walls & roof (brown or dark grey), original rear canopy \$5
(brown or dark grey), Railroad work car: original walls & roof, 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, Cattle Pen: crossbar, Turnpike: white lens holder, 2 lenses(Red or
Green), Turnpike: white cone 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, 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.

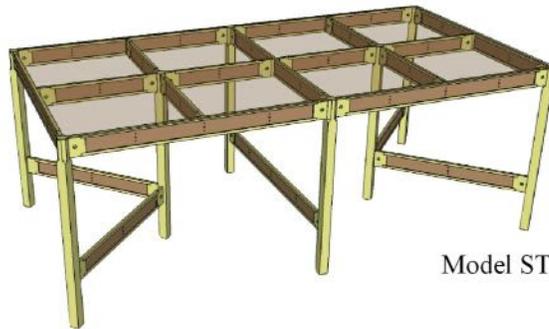
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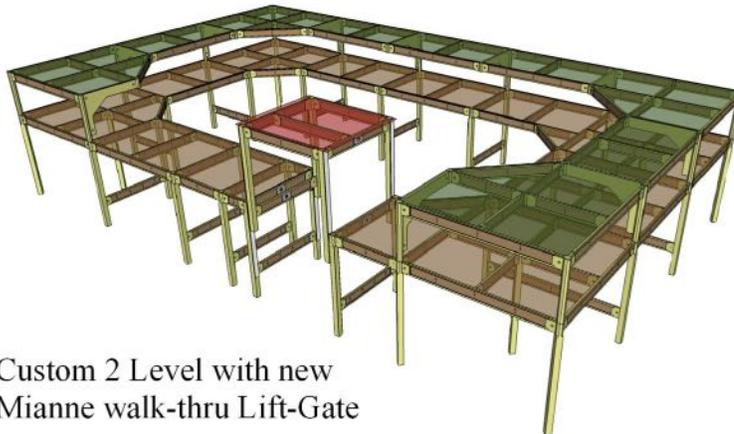
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A HISTORY OF PLASTICVILLE: PART X 1971-1997

TOM FRITSCH

1971

DRUG STORE (1853)

This variation of the earlier Hardware and Pharmacy occurred with the issuance of kit #1853 in 1971. Not only were the colors different from before, but the "PLASTICVILLE" name was removed from the front of the stores. In addition to the less colorful window inserts being different from before, the front color was altered to tan and the back and walls were changed to white. It was dropped from the line after 1973.

1975

PARK ASSORTMENT (1918)

In 1975, the Park Assortment was introduced. It consisted of 33 previously-released pieces: one Telephone Booth (without the shelf and phonebook of the first release), eight Benches, twelve red Mail Boxes and twelve orange Fire Hydrants. During the five years that the Park Assortment was cataloged, this kit was always depicted as including a trashcan and a package-style mailbox (neither of which Bachmann ever made, but Littleton did). It also depicted the Telephone Booth, Benches and Fire Hydrant as being colorfully painted.

1997

In 1997, Bachman introduced four new structures for the 50th Anniversary of Plasticville. Bachmann never owned the dies for these new pieces. They were made by Heljan A/S, a Danish model railway company based in Sønderød. These new buildings are full "0" scale. In January 2008, Atlas O advertised five "NEW STRUCTURE KITS!" Four of these structures were the same as these 50th Anniversary pieces offered by Bachmann. The names were identical to what Bachmann used except for the Pedestrian Bridge, which is called a Pedestrian Overpass by Atlas O.

RURAL TWO-STORY HOUSE (45971)

The Rural Two-Story House is a model of a classic Midwestern frame house commonly found in cities and on farms. The wrap-around porch with the turned posts and the gingerbread trim make this an attractive piece. It has clear plastic windowpanes that snap tightly into the windows. The Rural Two-Story House is pictured with tan walls/green roof/brown trim in all the photos and on the box, but also came in medium gray walls/light gray

roof/black trim, as well as a classic white walls/gray roof/black trim. There was no way of knowing which color scheme was in the box until it was opened.

RURAL STATION (45972)

The Rural Station has clear plastic windowpanes that snap tightly into the windows. Bachmann's photos show a brick-red building with a gray roof and tan windows, which may be the most common colors, but was also available with beige walls/brick-red roof/brown windows, as well as with tan walls/brown roof/green windows.

SWITCH TOWER (45973)

This Switch Tower is an entirely different design from the original SW-2 Switch Tower first released in 1954. This edition is full "0" scale, while the original was released as "0-S." The newer Switch Tower came with brown walls/black roof/cream trim and light grey walls/black roof.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE MODEL KIT (45974)

The Pedestrian Bridge Model Kit was the first new "0" scale structures since the Coaling Station in 1964, and was the first Plasticville item designed to be glued together rather than having "snap-fit" construction. This bridge design is common to the commuter train system in Philadelphia (home of Bachmann), especially around Germantown and Chestnut Hill.

An ad in the February 1997 O Gauge Railroading magazine showed a "0" scale "Foot Bridge" that was offered by B&B Hobby Supply of Bridgeville, Pa. The bridge was identical to the later-released Plasticville #45974 Pedestrian Bridge Model Kit. Apparently, Bachmann had liked what they saw and snapped up the rights to the Foot Bridge, appropriately re-labeling it as the Pedestrian Bridge, and putting it into their own production. This bridge was made in both U.S.A. and China.



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THE HUNT FOR VARIATIONS IV: CHAIRS AND SHRUBS

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

This set of six chairs was shared at the show and tell at the October 2019 York meet. These chairs match the hospital chairs but are found in green, light blue, red, yellow, flesh, and tan.



Make 'N' Play house and garden set and a standard white chair from the hospital furniture set.



What is interesting is that the blue, red, and yellow chairs are identical in color to the small shrubs that can be found in Story-Town sets. Shown to the right are the same six chairs opposite the shrubs. Included at the end is a hard to find brown chair from the

The dark tan, tan, brown and white shrubs were never released. Originally the brown and two tan versions were going to be released with one of the King buildings, but this did not happen. The white shrub was a test shot of the mold during this production. These can usually be found on eBay or from Bill Nole (ad on page 8) who originally produced them during the King manufacturing time. The origin of these chairs is unknown, they could be modern reproductions or original items. If anyone has additional information please contact me at:



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Gas Station: front wall, back wall, L side wall, roof

School House: front wall, back wall, L or R side wall, roof

Fire House: back wall, L or R side wall

Police Station: dark grey rear wall, L or R side wall; light grey L or R side wall

Switch Tower: grey L or R side wall, rear wall; brown rear wall or R side wall

Bank: light grey front wall, L or R side wall

Loading Platform: green roof

Ranch House: pink front wall, L or R side wall; yellow L or R side wall; light blue R side wall;

white front wall, L or R side wall; dark brown front wall, L or R side wall

Motel: white front wall, rear wall, roof, end wall; pink front wall, rear wall, R or L side wall, roof, walkway

CC7/8 Church: brown door/windows front or side wall; grey door/windows side wall, rear wall

TV Station: red front wall, R wall, roof, WPLA sign, antenna base; white roof, L or R side wall, rear wall, antenna base

The following parts are \$2.00 each plus shipping

Dairy Barn: Tuscan red front, rear, L or R side wall, L or R roof, sliding door, L or R silo halves; red sliding door

Covered Bridge: Tuscan end, side wall, grey and white swirled roof

Diner: grey walls yellow trim, front wall, L or R side; grey walls red trim, front wall, L wall;

chrome front yellow trim, front wall; chrome front red trim, front, L or R side wall

Loading Dock: light or dark grey roof, building side, or platform

Coaling Station: brown L or R side wall, front wall, floor, rear wall, back brace; grey roof, brown coal chute,

PLASTICVILLE BUILDINGS- NO BOXES – PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE SHIPPING

\$5.00 buildings:

Cape Cod: white walls / red trim, white walls / brown trim, white walls / green trim

CC7/8 Church: white / brown trim, white / grey trim

Fire Station: white / red trim – no vehicles

Police Station: light grey, dark grey

\$8 buildings:

BN-1 Barn: white walls / red roof, red walls / white roof

\$10 buildings:

Ranch Houses: first color denotes wall color, second color denotes roof color

brown/red, blue/white, white/blue, green/white, pink/grey, turquoise/white, pea green/white

Colonial Mansion: white / blue roof, white / red roof

Watchman's Shanty: brown / grey trim

Loading Platform: grey shack / brown platform & roof

Frosty Bar: pink white trim, chrome counter; pink, white trim, pink counter; yellow, white trim, chrome counter;

yellow, white trim, yellow counter

Diner: grey walls, yellow trim

Small Supermarket: white / red roof

\$20 buildings:

Rural Station: brown / dark grey roof & trim (sealed bag)

\$25 buildings:

Covered Bridge: Tuscan red / grey trim

OTHER STUFF

Automobiles, \$5 – hood ornament or no, my choice: red, yellow, green, pastel blue

K-Line Coca Cola Pizza Parlor, no box, \$25 – sealed bag

K-Line Coca Cola Pop's Diner, no box \$25 – sealed bag

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UNUSUAL SMALL GAS STATION

CHARLES SWANSON

Like to share a possible unreported Small Gas Station variation. Instead of the 1950's Red lettering or 1980's unpainted lettering, this one is Black Lettered. The paper window insert, is 1980's version, however the garage doors are 1950's versions. I can't say whether this Black Lettered variation is

original or not, but can't completely rule out it being original, since some of the 1980's Fire Houses come with the Engine Co & and Ladder Co lettering in black. Either way, think it is much better in appearance than unpainted version.



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ITEMS FOR SALE BY THE PCA

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

Personalized address labels

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels are available from the PCA. The labels will 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 \$1.00 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 size M is 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.



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

Did You Know?

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



PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

The Times and Travels of Toy Trains, 2nd edition, Carol Redman McGinnis, 55 pages, spiral bound, 8 1/2 x 10, \$19.54. Self-published.

The format of this publication is one that I have never seen before. With this book one cannot just sit down and start reading about toy trains. I will call this book a super extended toy train timeline. Of course, there is still the usual acknowledgements page as well as an introduction page but from there it diverges into a most unusual publication.

Pages 4 through 37 are a timeline in four vertical parts. The upper part of each page carries the title *History*. The second section is a progression of year dates starting with 1848. This is followed by a section with the title *Model Train Genealogy*. The last section bears the title, *Family Chronicle*.

The *History* section contains significant toy train history for the year noted below it. *Model Train Genealogy* lists significant toy train "firsts". *Family Chronicle* is the genealogy of Ms. Redman's forebears.

The author has included a partial hyperlink to additional information for all entries for which she has found additional information on the Internet.

So how does one get to the Internet pages since the complete URL is not listed in the book? One has to simply access the entire book through a URL on the Train Collectors Association website. That URL is:

<http://tcaetrain.org/2d-articles/tca/times-travels2/Times-and-Travels-Edition-2.pdf>

One can view the entire book, including the complete hyperlinks.

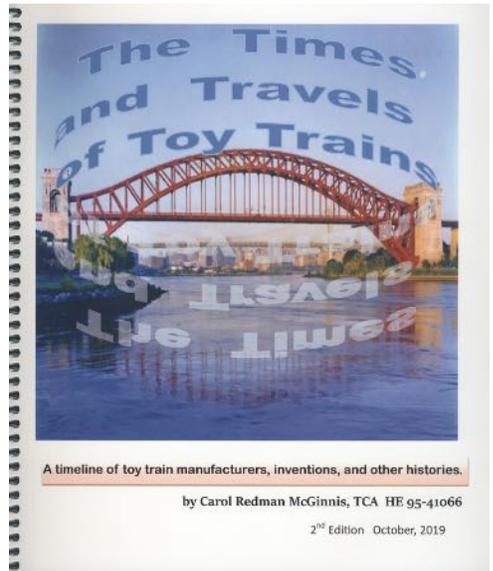
Pages 38 and 39 contain charts listing the distance between rails for over forty different gauges. Pages 40 through 47 contain charts of the various gauges along with a list of companies who

manufactured to a specific gauge listed by the year of the company's initial appearance - not necessarily when it started using the associated gauge. The final pages are an index and bibliography.

Although a unique publication, it aggregates a massive amount of toy train related information, including hyperlinks to additional information. I do not feel that anyone can be wrong in purchasing this publication due to all of the links to other toy train history.

As this is a self-published book the author has asked that any request to purchase a book be placed through our organization. Please contact secretary@plasticvilleusa.org for ordering information.

You may have noticed that the price does not end in the customary xx.99. I will send a Plasticville building of my choice to the first person who can tell me why the price is \$19.54 rather than \$19.99.



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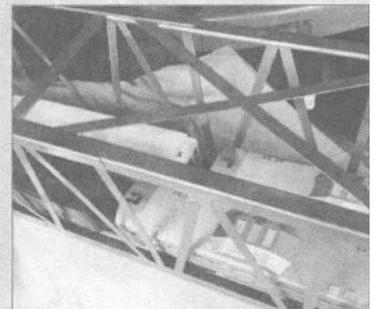
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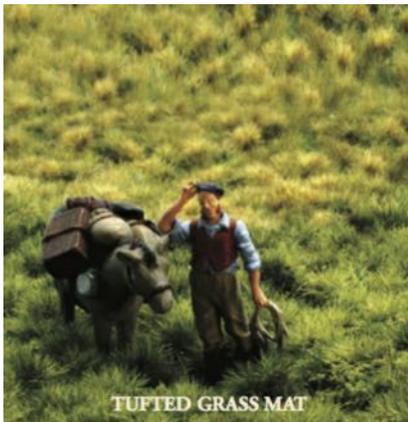
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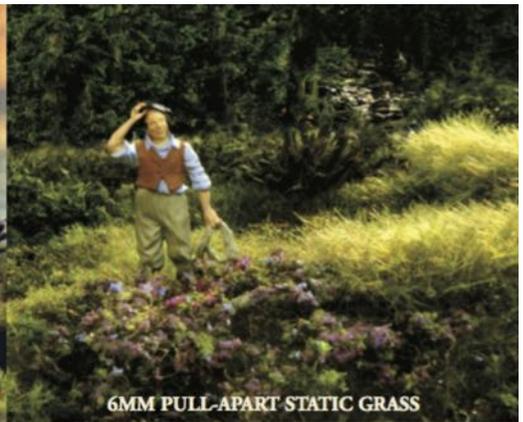
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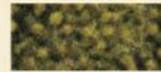
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