



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 19

September 2020

Number 3

DELAWARE CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: A MODEL FOR PLASTICVILLE

JACK SWAB

Several years ago, a PCA member (whose name I forget unfortunately) posted on the PCA Facebook page about the similarities between the Plasticville School (SC-4) and the former elementary school in Delaware City, Delaware. Located about 50 miles from Bachmann's headquarters in Philadelphia, the school bears striking similarities to the only school building ever to be designed for Plasticville.

While I am sure many of us worry about overcrowded classrooms for the children of Plasticville (who builds a two-room schoolhouse in a burgeoning suburb?!) I was able to visit the real building in Delaware. It's quite spacious and significantly larger than what was produced by Plasticville, with several additions added to it over the years including a cafeteria and a gym.

The original building seems similar in design to the Plasticville building in the sense that it is a rectangle with rooms aligned along a single hallway. The real building is about twice as wide (when viewed from the front of the building, not pictured in the below photo) to accommodate additional classrooms. The school now serves as a library and community center and retains much of its original architectural character, including the distinct cupola.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the only Plasticville building (not based on a famous structure that is) to have been found in the real world. There has been discussion about the Large Gas Station (GO-3) being based on a gas station near Bachmann headquarters, but I don't think anyone has yet pinned this down.

Beyond this I don't have any other information to share. If anyone else has any information about this building and its connection to Plasticville feel free to email me (john.j.swab@gmail.com) or write into *The Villager*.



The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

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PLASTICVILLE BARNYARD ANIMALS



DONALD W. HUOVINEN

I was prompted to write this article as I have heard or read quite a bit of misinformation about the Plasticville Barnyard Animals.

The information I am presenting here is how the items are expected to be. An overriding consideration when discussing how Plasticville (and other manufacturers) packaged their items is to remember that Plasticville was in business to make money, not to make items which would be collected and scrutinized more than 50 years later. If a packaged component was out of stock, substitutions were often made to complete the package. Additionally the work was done by people, who can make mistakes. So if differences are noted they can often be attributed to expediency or human error.

Barnyard Animals, BY-4, was first shown in the 1952 catalog. In 1956 the item number changed to 1606. The Animals were last cataloged in 1963. Photos 1 and 2 show the tops of the boxes for BY-4 and 1606 respectively.

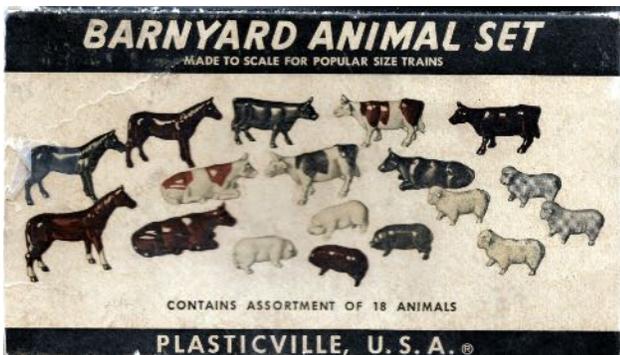


Photo 1: BY-4 Box

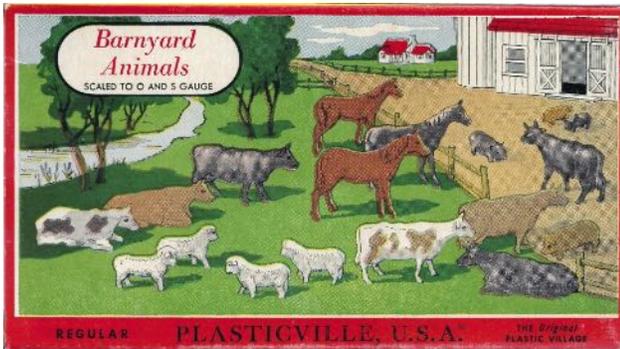


Photo 2: 1606 Box

The catalog illustration for the Barnyard Animals remained the same for all years that the Animals were cataloged. The wording varied only slightly. From 1952 through 1957 the catalog text refers to “plain and painted” assorted animals. All references to color were dropped beginning in 1958. In some of the late 1606 sets, none of the animals were painted. Photo 3 shows the illustration in the 1956 catalog, which is the transition year which included both the old and the new numbers in the catalog.

18 animals were included in each set: 4 sheep, 4 pigs, 3 horses, 4 standing cows, and 3 sitting cows. Photo 4 shows representatives of the animals included: a caramel horse, a white standing cow with caramel paint, a black sitting cow, a gray sheep and a very

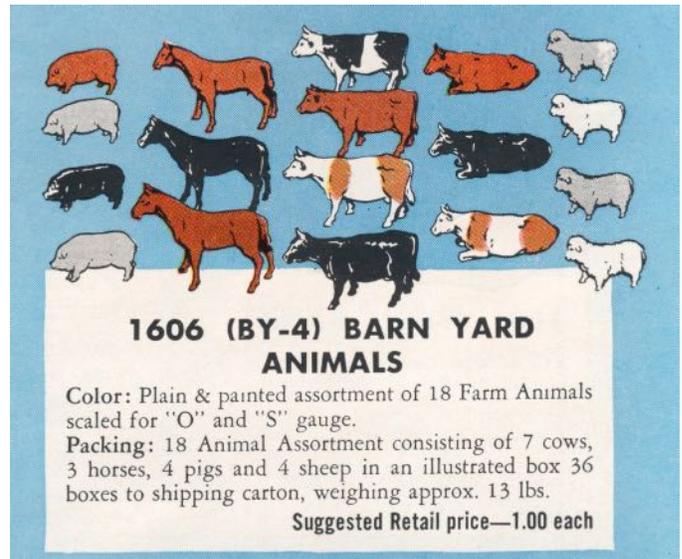


Photo 3: Catalog Entry

dark brown pig. All of the animals should have BB molded into the underside of the animal but in many cases they do not. The animals which came in the Barnyard Animals sets were made in the following colors:

- Sheep: White or gray
- Pigs: White, black, caramel, or very dark brown
- Horses: Black, black with gray hooves, caramel, caramel with gray hooves, very dark brown or very dark brown with gray hooves. The white horse made by Bachmann was not included in the Barnyard Animal sets however it has been offered for sale as part of the Barnyard Animals set on E-Bay.
- Standing Cows: Black, caramel, very dark brown, white, white with black paint, or white with caramel paint
- Sitting Cows: Black, caramel, very dark brown, white, white with black paint, or white with caramel paint.



Photo 4: Animal assortment.

In addition to being included in the Barnyard Animal sets, the animals themselves were packaged in many other sets. Often the animals were included as a complete package (i.e. all 18 animals), for instance as part of the BA-7 Barn and Animal Set. Other times a smaller number of animals were included. For example the BA-6 Barn and Animal Unit only had 9 animals. The extreme end was the Storytown USA #5012, Jack and Jill, which included only a single standing cow.

From 1958 through 1962 Lionel cataloged a number of accessories which were Plasticville packaged in a Lionel box. Many of these sets included animals but the only accessory to include the full complement of 18 animals was No. 986 Farmhouse and Barnyard Set cataloged in 1962. Other sets had fewer animals; the extreme was No. 957 Farm Buildings and Animal Set which only included a single horse.

All of the animals included in the sets referenced above were normal production items.

In 1959 Lionel introduced The General, a "superb Lionel replica of a real old time train". Included in two sets and also available for separate sale was the "No. 1877 General Flat Car with Six Horses. The horses are removable". The car would be available through 1962. Lionel also produced the uncataloged No. 1887 flat car with six horses in 1960. There were two black horses, two caramel horses, and two white horses. The white horses were not part of Bachmann's regular production and were only manufactured for inclusion with the Lionel General flat cars.

Bachmann had 5 different molds for the barnyard animals, one for each of the animals. This allowed Bachmann to make different animals as required to fill their different sets with minimal waste. Compare this to the farm animals included in the Farm Buildings and Animals sets. There is a single mold for all 16 farm animals thus whenever any of these animals were included in sets they always included the full complement of 12 fowl and 4 domestic animals.

Four different box printings have been observed. For BY-4, boxes were printed in 1952 and 1954. For 1606, boxes were printed in 1956 and 1958.

A few items of note:

The animals included with the BY-4 sets are shiny. The animals included in 1606 are of satin finish.

The very dark brown animals are less common than the other colors and were included in some of the early BY-4 sets. These animals have only been observed in the 1952 boxes; none have



been observed in the 1954 boxes. There have been sets offered for sale on E-Bay at a premium price which included only the dark brown animals (except the sheep which were only white or gray). It is doubtful they were packaged that way.

The white cows are also less common and were included in some late 1606 sets. They have only been observed in the 1958 boxes which were packaged in 1963, the last year the animals were cataloged. The white cow was also included in the Make 'N' Play 4002 Farm Set sold in 1964 and 1965.

The BY-4 sets included two horses of the same color, one of which had gray painted hooves. The other horse was a different color.

Horses with gray painted hooves were not included in 1606 sets.

The animals in the BY-4 sets were packaged in four cellophane packages. One had the 4 standing cows, one had the 3 sitting cows, one had the 3 horses, and the fourth had the sheep and pigs.

The animals in the 1606 set were packaged in two cellophane packages. One had the 3 horses, 4 pigs and 2 sheep. The other had the cows and 2 sheep.

It is also interesting to note that in 1952-1953 the sets were shipped 72 sets per shipping carton. From 1954 to 1958 this number was reduced to 36 boxes per shipping carton. From 1959 to 1963 this was further reduced to 12 boxes per carton. Was this an indication of reduced sales?

The price of the Barnyard Animals was \$1.00 for all 12 years it was cataloged except for 1953 when the price was reduced to \$0.98. Plasticville reduced the price of many items in 1953, typically by 2 cents, but in some cases by more.

One of the Plasticville Animals has been reproduced: the horse. The demand for the reproduction came not from Plasticville collectors but rather Lionel collectors looking for replacements for the horses included with the General flat cars which were cataloged from 1959-1962. Typical of the many flat cars that Lionel produced during this period, the loads included on the cars are most often missing. Indeed some of the loads were held on only with an elastic band or, in the case of the General flat cars, the animals were not secured at all. I have seen horses which did not even resemble the Plasticville horses offered as replacements for the General cars. The best reproduction horses I have seen were reproduced by Jeff Kane, the Train Tender. In talking to Jeff he stated he contacted Bachmann to try to have



Photo 5: Original (left) and reproduction (right) horse.

horses made for him but received no response so he had new molds made. These reproduction horses are very nicely made but should not fool the seasoned Plasticville collector. The horses lack the BB on the belly, but this is not always a definitive indication that the horses are not original Plasticville. On Plasticville horses the BB can be very strong, very weak, or non-existent. Rather a better indication is the location of the pin marks and the parting lines. On the Plasticville horses there is a pin mark just behind the front legs and the parting lines run between the insides of the legs on the belly. On Jeff's horses the pin mark is smaller and is between the front legs. The parting lines run from the center of the legs much farther apart of the belly. Photo 5

shows an original Plasticville horse on the left and the reproduction horse on the right. Photo 6 is a close-up of the belly of the horses; the original is on the left. Note the pin mark between the legs just to the rear of the front legs and the parting lines. A vestige of BB is barely visible. The pin mark on the reproduction horse is just barely visible between the front legs and that the belly looks very smooth. The parting lines are higher up on the flanks.

As usual you additions and corrections are always welcomed.

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Photo 6: Original (left) and reproduction (right) horse.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN



It is hard to believe that another three months have passed. Most of us have probably spent very little time outside of our homes during this period. There continues to be a shortage of content for the newsletter. I have stressed this a number of times

but unfortunately I have not seen a response from our readers (with a few exceptions). I suggested to the PCA leadership that in 2021 the newsletter be reduced to three issues per year and they agreed. This should be a red flag to our readers. I know many of you enjoy the newsletter but without new contributors: regular, semi-regular, or occasional there is not enough content to fill four issues. I hope that this is a wake-up call to the readers that the end of *The Villager* may be in sight without a change in participation.

On that note, I have several ideas for new content but I will need your help to execute. Volunteers should contact me.

1. Favorite items - everyone has a favorite item in their collection. It would be interesting to learn why this is your favorite. A picture of the item and a short paragraph is all that is required.
2. Items with a good story - sometimes you come across a great find. A rare item at a garage sale, a complete kit buried in a junk box, that missing part you need. Similar to the above you just need to submit a photo and short paragraph.
3. Layout/Display stories - We have typically featured layout photos in the last issue of the year. I would like to expand

on this similar to what is featured in other magazines. I envision this as a short story with multiple photos. You would have the opportunity to show off all, or part, of your layout. This would give other members ideas and give you a chance to show off your hard work.

With all of the above I am here to help. We can work together to edit and formulate the text. I am fairly adept at transforming raw ideas into descriptive text. Most of us are smart phone users. The picture quality on most of these devices is sufficient for the newsletter (when saved in high-quality). In the event that you have a good story but no way to provide an image I encourage you to reach out. It may be possible to obtain the image from another source for your story.

I really hope that several of you will reach out so that we add new content to the newsletter. The deadline for material is one month before the publication date. So for the next issue you would need get me your content by mid November. If you miss the deadline I would hold it for the next issue. Please reach out if you have questions or want to pitch an idea before putting in the work.

If you wish to remain anonymous in your submission for any reason that is always an option.

Matt Harvazinski, *The Villager* Editor
villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

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FIRE CHIEF HELMETS (FOLLOW-UP)

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

Charles mentions in his article in the June, 2020 issue that there is an unknown design immediately above the word PLASTICVILLE on the shield attached to the helmet. The design is actually five fire bugles spaced equally inside the circle. Five bugles designates a fire chief. A pin of this design would be worn on the collar or lapel of a Fire Chief, thus the tie in of the design with the words FIRE CHIEF on the shield. The vertical bugle in the design is positioned with the bell up. My research has determined that it is the option of the fire departments whether the bugle faces up or down or otherwise. My local Fire Chief prefers that the bell of one of the bugles points to the collar tip on his shirt. By the way it seems that the instrument is called a fire bugle or a fire trumpet, depending upon to whom one is speaking.

In actuality The Jr Fire Chief Department set was not marketed as Plasticville, although it is a Bachmann product. That may explain why there is neither the Plasticville name or the double BB logo inside the cap. I believe that I can state with some certainty that it was a Bachmann product though based on the illustrated advertising sheet (below). One could presume that there may have been a call for replacement helmets in the Fire Chief sets and that someone in Bachmann's marketing department said, "Hey, let's see if we can sell a bunch of these outside of the sets".

Joe Kutza has an original price sheet (next page) that was most likely meant for other than Plasticville dealers. It lists the shield imprinting cost as well as the cost for helmets with and without the pencil sharpener. To be a helmet made by Bachmann, though, it seems that the Plasticville Fire Chief imprint would have to be on the back of the custom imprint if I am reading the price sheet correctly.

My guess is that a local Texaco station ordered helmets as a giveaway promotion. One would think that many more would be still around if Texaco as a corporation ordered them and then distributed them to their franchisees. That would explain the Texaco Fire Chief helmet. My feeling is that the promotion of these by Bachmann may not have gone over very well as I have seen only one special shield helmet. It had a Texaco logo as does the one in Charles' article.

The price sheet notes that the helmets are available in only red or white. The PCA website shows three different color helmets along with the red helmet: white, black, and yellow. It would be interesting to know if the white, black, and yellow helmets have a custom imprint on their backs.

The other question is whether Bachmann decided to go ahead and mold helmets in different colors if the customer's order was large enough. That would possibly explain the different color helmets with the Plasticville shield if there is an imprint on the back side.

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Police Dept: green chimney cap, Cattle Pen: crossbar, Turnpike: white lens holder, 2 lenses(Red or
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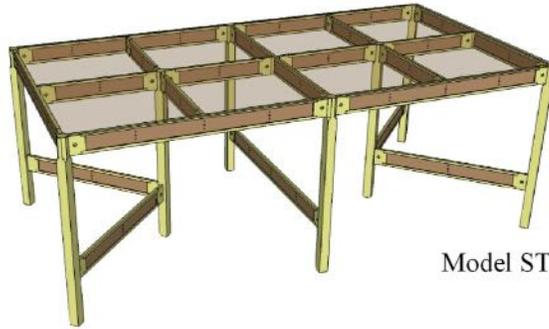
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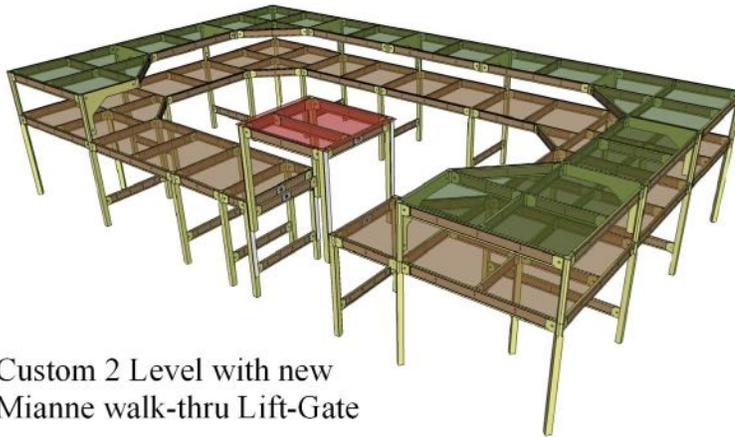
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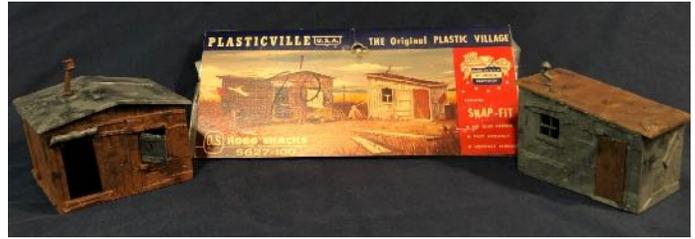


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THE HUNT FOR VARIATIONS V: POLYBAGS

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

When you look in Plasticville reference books there are a number of structures that also list a 5000 numbered version. 17 items were produced in a polybag with a header card and given a 5000 series number. A couple of these numbers are reused numbers assigned to master units. Each header card is two sided, the front shows an image of the item and the back lists the other polybag items in the series. The



cardboard insert in the bag. Over the years you will find that the sharp corners of the parts in the bag tend to put small holes in the bag. These bags are fragile, not as fragile as the bags used for the flock of birds or shrubs, but care should still be taken.

header card is folded at the top and stapled to the bag twice to secure the contents. Inside the bag along with the parts to the kit is a piece of blue cardboard which gives the bag shape.



Catalog #	Item
5000	Telephone Poles
5002	Picket Fence
5402†	Switch Tower
5403†	Signal Bridge
5407	Watchman Shanty
5600†	Church
5601†	Barn
5603†	Ranch House
5616	Suburban Station
5620	Loading Platform
5627	Hobo Shacks
5629	Bungalow
5700	Two-Story House
5701	New England Rancher
5800	Large Gas Station
5804	Greenhouse
5806	Roadside Stand

A list of the items available in the polybag series is shown in the table. A † indicates that the number was also assigned to a master unit. There are two accessories, a dozen telephone poles and a dozen pieces of picket fence. The telephone poles are always brown and the fence is the shorter length fence (6 in) and is always white.

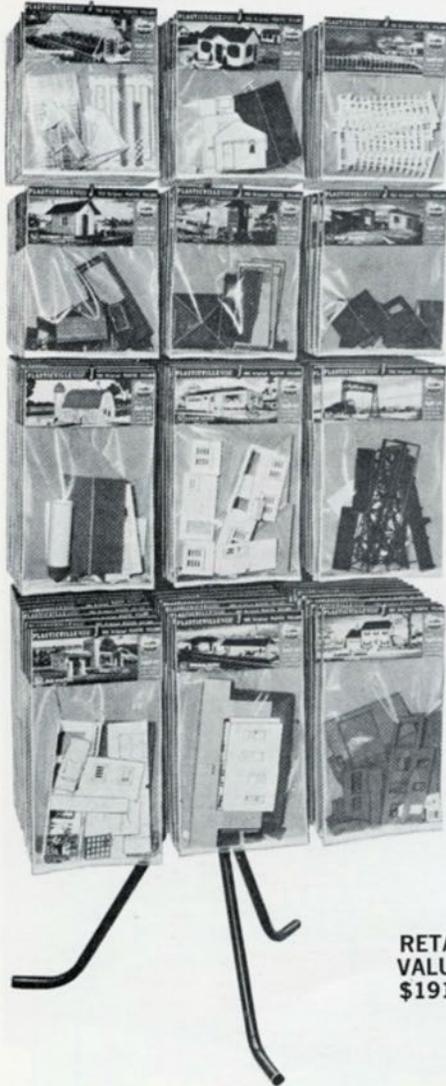
In addition to being difficult to find, the polybag series is a source of marbled buildings. The switch tower, watchman shanty, loading platform, and hobo shacks are always found marbled in the polybags. This makes

these particular items very desirable. Other building color variations are insignificant. For example the barn is always white sides with a red roof and the ranch house is neither dark blue or turquoise. The roadside stand is the early version without the sticker.

For some items the artwork is unique, and others the artwork is reused from other boxes. For example the graphic on the 5620 loading platform is very similar to the 1620 box. The graphic for the 5002 picket fence, shown to the right, is new artwork since this was previously only in generic dealer boxes or the early Christmas tree fence box. This photo also clearly shows the blue

The catalog entry for the polybags is shown on the next page, it is from the 1963 catalog. You can see that the dealer was able to order a pre-defined assortment of the polybags along with a floor stand to display them. Interestingly the floor stand only has 12 hangers on them. The assortment came with one-dozen of each kit except for the fence, signal bridge, station, and greenhouse which included only 6. The retail price ranged from \$0.79 to \$1.49 depending on the kit. Three other examples of polybags are shown on page 17. Polybags are hard to find and they typically sell for more than a boxed version, usually at least \$100. An exception is the marbled structures which tend to sell for more.

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		Retail Price
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6 only #5002	12 pieces Picket Fence79
12 only #5402	Switch Tower79
6 only #5403	Signal Bridge79
12 only #5407	Watchman Shanty .....	.79
12 only #5600	Church	1.00
12 only #5601	Barn	1.00
12 only #5603	Ranch House	1.00
6 only #5616	Suburban Station	1.00
12 only #5620	Loading Platform	1.00
12 only #5627	Hobo Shacks	1.00
12 only #5629	Bungalow	1.00
12 only #5700	Two Story House	1.29
12 only #5701	One & Half Story N.E. Rancher	1.29
12 only #5800	Gas Station	1.49
6 only #5804	Greenhouse	1.49
12 only #5806	Roadside Stand	1.49

Deal is shipped in 2 cartons. Sturdy metal floor stand is provided at no cost.

Single units shipped F.O.B. Philadelphia, 2 or more make a prepaid shipment.

Shipping weight 108 lbs.

OPEN STOCK

	Retail Price		Retail Price		
#5000	12 Telephone Poles	\$.79	#5620	Loading Platform	\$1.00
#5002	12 pieces Picket Fence .....	.79	#5627	Hobo Shacks	1.00
#5402	Switch Tower .....	.79	#5629	Bungalow	1.00
#5403	Signal Bridge .....	.79	#5700	Two Story House	1.29
#5407	Watchman Shanty .....	.79	#5701	One & Half Story N.E. Rancher	1.29
#5600	Church	1.00	#5800	Gas Station	1.49
#5601	Barn	1.00	#5804	Greenhouse	1.49
#5603	Ranch House	1.00	#5806	Roadside Stand	1.49
#5616	Suburban Station	1.00			





#5800 - Large gas station



#5000 - Telephone Poles



#5601 - Barn

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The following parts are \$1.00 each plus shipping

Frosty Bar: pink back wall, L or R side wall, yellow back wall, L or R side wall, white counter, white roof, Chrome counter

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

BROWN STREET LAMPS

CHARLES SWANSON

These street lamps are not black, they are a dark brown color. Normally the LP-9 is found in green. Occasionally they can also be found in black which is a more difficult variation to obtain. The street lamps pictured to the right are dark brown.

These street lamps were found several years ago, in a collection of some boxed Canadian Plasticville. A theory is that these dark brown street lights are likely a Canadian Plasticville production item. This is based on the fact that the brown billboard frame is a known Canadian Plasticville item and these are a similar color to the billboard frame.



CHAIR FOLLOW-UP

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

In the June 2020 issue of *The Villager* I covered a strange finding of hospital chairs in a variety of colors. Bob Persing (Bobbyline Parts) contacted me to let me know that these chairs are in fact reproductions. They were made during the King Plasticville era. Bob is the current owner of the mold used to produce these items along with the shrubs.



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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.

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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.

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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. 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 Memphis, Clarksville & Louisville Railroad - A history, Todd DeFeo, 190 pages, softcover, 6 × 9 format, \$21.99. Published by The History Press. Black & white photos throughout as well as various charts.

This book is a history of the struggles of a small railroad that wanted to connect to two other routes thus allowing a complete route between Memphis, Tennessee and Louisville, Kentucky. This line was intended to be part of that route.

The MC&L name was more grandiose than its title. Clarksville was the only city in its name through which the railroad passed. Clarksville is on Interstate 24 about 50 miles northwest of Nashville. The MC&L's bridge over the Cumberland River as well as its station still exist in Clarksville. The Eastern end of the line was at Paris, Tennessee. The Western end was at the Tennessee/Kentucky state line at a place known as State Line. Paris is in the Northwest corner of the state with a population of about 10,000. I could not find State Line on any contemporary maps.

The line was chartered in 1852. It managed to survive until 1872 when it became part of the Louisville & Nashville. It seems from the outset that it was besieged with financial difficulties. As with many other railroads, the public wanted a railroad serving their town but did not want to help subsidize its construction. I doubt that the less than complimentary moniker of "beginning in the woods and ending in a hollow tree" helped generate needed capital. Fortunately the line was ready to operate part of its line just prior to the Civil War anyway. The war took a toll on finances due to the need to constantly repair parts of the line after battles. Control of it switched back and forth between the North and the South.

This book has the usual acknowledgements and introduction, followed by eleven chapters tracing its beginning through the

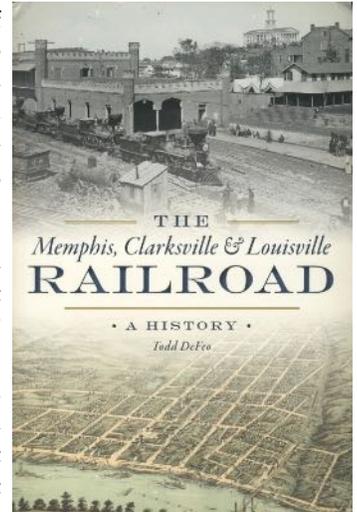
most recent acquisition of some of the right of way by the R J Corman Railroad Company. It also has a very significant set of notes listed by chapter as well as a three page bibliography and an index.

Every once in a while a book will land on my desk that prompts the question, "Why"? This is one of those books. "Why did I decide to read a book about a small railroad that failed"? I am glad that it did as it gave me great insight into how a small railroad had to struggle to make a profit and why many of its size failed. I hope that after you read it you will also have a greater appreciation for what the smaller railroads had to contend with when trying to become a going concern.

The Memphis, Clarksville & Louisville Railroad - A history is available directly from The History Press. The direct link to the book is:

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467143462>

Amazon lists it in new condition starting for \$16.99 plus shipping. Barnes & Noble has it listed at the publishers price of \$21.99. Hamilton book at <https://www.hamiltonbook.com> lists the book for \$17.95 plus shipping.



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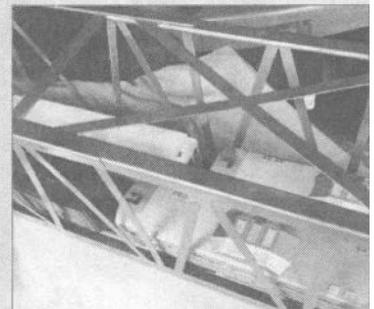
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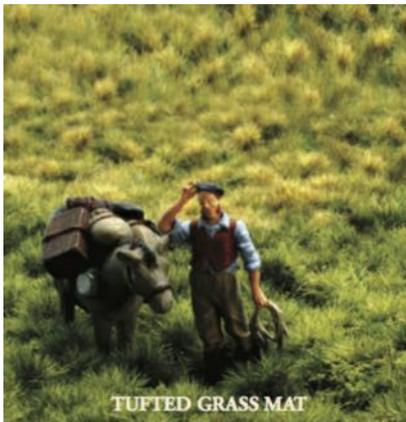
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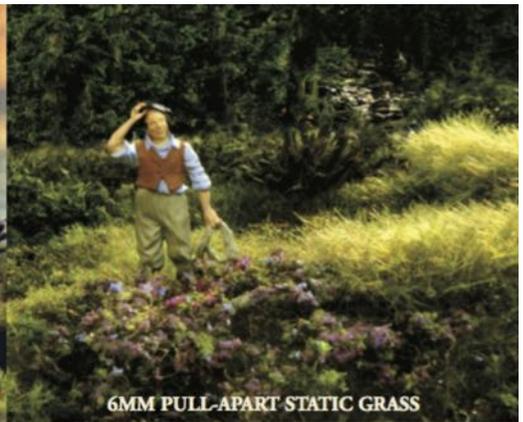
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