



# THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association  
Volume 20 April 2021 Number 1

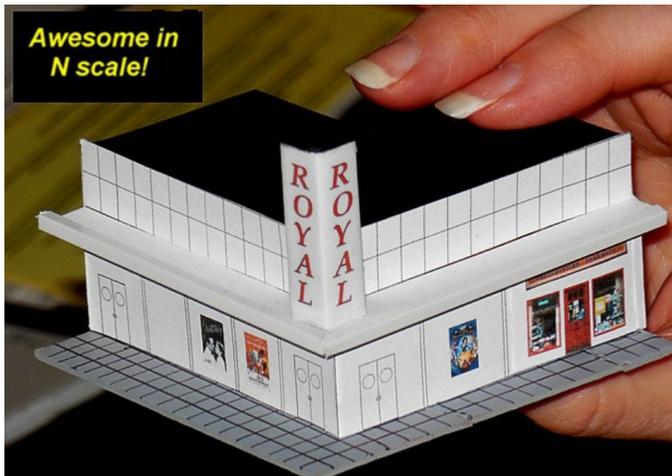
## BEEMAK CORNER THEATER

MIKE CEDRO

It was 1961. I was ten years old with a Lionel train set and about 7 or 8 of my older brother's Plasticville buildings. My buddy next door had HO. I was totally unimpressed with HO, but then he got something that captured my imagination. It was a Paramount Theater. I don't remember if it came in a Beemak box or a Plasticville box, but I was full of envy. I so wished that Plasticville would offer one in O/S scale, but it never came to be.



Built on a framework of thin strips of masonite.



on cardstock. The building was not an exact scale replica, since so many large scale buildings are down-sized for convenience, but the effect was very nice. The PARAMOUNT and DRUGS letters were omitted, although I had

In a lifetime of accumulating Plasticville and other buildings, I never had a movie theater to compare to that HO one. Then this year I took up the challenge.

As with many of the buildings that I have modeled, I made the framework out of thin, masonite furring strips (drywall shims). and overlaid that with graphics printed



### The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

**President:** Joe Kutza

**Vice President:** Frank Ross

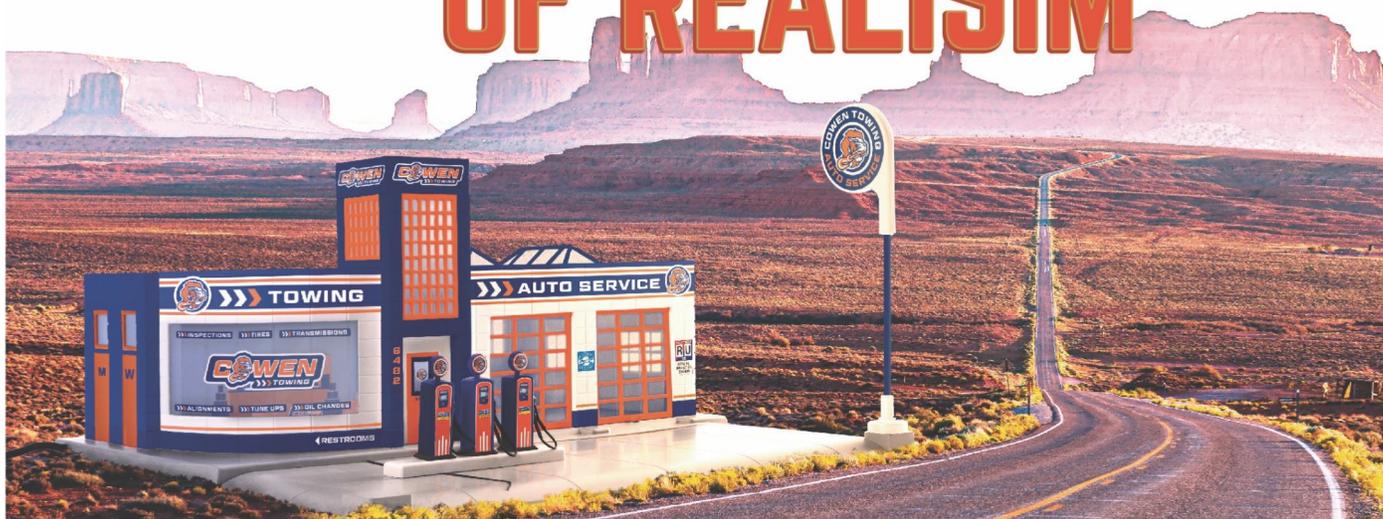
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[www.plasticvilleusa.org](http://www.plasticvilleusa.org)

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

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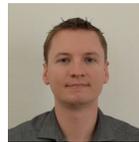
Visit [www.lionel.com](http://www.lionel.com) to learn more

originally planned to have them. Classic movie posters and a nice Rexall Drug Store front finished off the project. It was most satisfying.

Not long after, I built another corner theater on the same theme in N scale, but with a lighted marquis. This one was to more similar scale proportions.



## EDITOR'S COLUMN



We are now past the one year mark on the Pandemic. Hopefully by the time you read this you are well on your way to being vaccinated. We are still looking for additional readers to contribute. My inbox has been very quite recently, so why not drop a note. Let us know if you are enjoying the online newsletter, or share with us any interesting projects you have been working on during the pandemic.

I am looking forward to hopefully seeing everyone at York this October.

Matt Harvazinski, *The Villager* Editor

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

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# A RARE PIECE OF CANADIAN PLASTICVILLE ADVERTISING

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

A recent email from a non-collector in Canada provided me with a scan of the Plasticville catalog illustrated with this text. It is of the 1953 Canadian Plasticville catalog published by Frank Martin Co. Ltd. of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The front page of this piece states that it is a catalog but in actuality it is closer to a brochure.

The piece is 11 inches high  $\times$  22½ inches wide when folded open. There is a vertical fold line that is 8½ inches in from the right hand side when viewing the "catalog" side of the sheet. There is also a vertical fold line that is 4¼ inches in from the left side. Both of these folds would be folded away from the viewer to create an 8½  $\times$  11 catalog/brochure. One thing of note is that the cover stated Plasticville, not Plasticville USA. That is also typical of all Canadian Plasticville boxes.

A comparison of the prices listed and those of the Plasticville USA catalog are a bit interesting. Many of the

prices are identical such as the barn, gas station, and police station, as well as the accessories offered. The school house was lower whereas the diner was higher in price. All prices were within a few cents. That probably makes sense since the exchange rate was between \$1.02 and \$1.06 to the American dollar at that time.

This is the first piece of Canadian advertising that I have seen in over 22 years of collecting. The scans will be added to the Plasticville Collectors Association in the near future.

There seems to be little information on the Frank Martin Company. If anyone can add to the scant information that is currently on the Plasticville Collectors Association website please contact me at johnln@netins.net. Contact secretary@plasticvilleusa.org for folded open views

*The ad is shown in its entirety on pages 5-9.*

## Back in the Day

Growing Up in the Fifties:  
I Still Haven't Met a Train I Didn't Like



Keep Searching!

Lou Palumbo

## NEWLY RELEASED BOOK

Signed copies available by contacting  
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# PLASTICVILLE

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## *Educational and Entertaining for Youth and Adult*

Built to scale for miniature railroads. No matter how large or difficult, the Hobbyist discovers that all the units fit well into his planning for a realistic village or beautiful countryside.



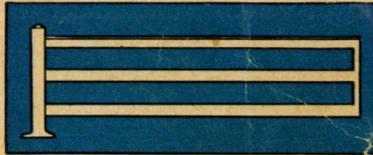
**CATALOG C-1953**  
**FRANK MARTIN CO. LTD.**  
**TORONTO, CANADA**

# Sturdy Construction



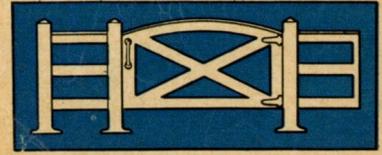
**TP-5  
TELEPHONE  
POLE**

Natural brown. Packed 1 dozen solid to box, weighing 4 ounces per dozen. **Retail .05 each**



**WF-5 PLATFORM FENCE**

White, 12 pieces to a box, weighing 5 ounces per dozen. **Retail .05 each**



**WG-10 PLATFORM GATE**

White. 12 pieces to a box, weighing 8 ounces per dozen. **Retail .10 each**



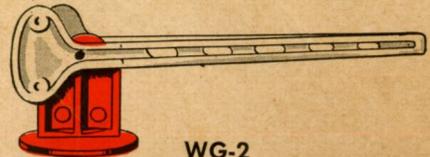
**TR-6 SPRUCE TREE**

Green — in two parts easily assembled. Packed 12 trees to box, weighing 6 ounces per dozen. **Retail 2 for .15**



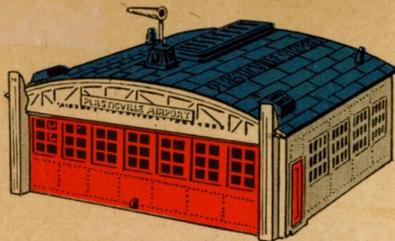
**3-F PLATFORM FENCE & GATE UNIT**

Latest design. 14 sections of 6" fence, and 1 section of 6" gate to a box, weighing 8 ounces. **Retail .89 each**



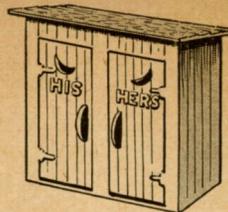
**WG-2  
RAILROAD CROSSING GATE**

Black base, white arms. One dozen gates to a box, weighing 5 ounces per dozen. **Retail .10 each**



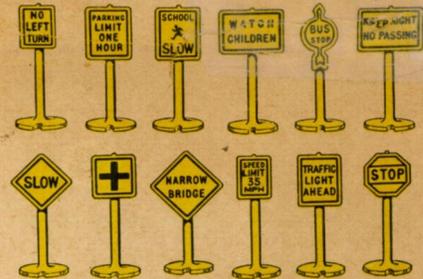
**AP-1 AIRPORT HANGAR KIT**

A large hangar made to scale with blue roof, white sides, red doors. Large service door that opens. White wind sock for roof attachment. Assembled size: 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, 7 $\frac{1}{6}$ " long, and 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " high. Packed 1 to a box, weighing 9 ounces. **Retail \$1.49 each**



**SA-7 OUTHOUSE**

Unique replica of old-fashioned outhouse with doors that open. Packed 1 dozen to box, weighing 7 ounces per dozen. **Retail .19 each**



**12-A SET OF ROAD SIGNS**

Yellow, printed in black, 12 different signs, as seen along every road, weighing 2 ounces per dozen. **Retail .49 each**



**BL-2 BRIDGE AND POND UNIT**

Grass green plastic pond 5" x 9" x  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. Will hold water. With rustic foot bridge across. Packed 1 complete set to attractive box, weighing 5 ounces. **Retail .69 each**



**HF-2 HOUSE FENCE & GATE UNIT**

Packed 1 dozen boxes, each holding 11 sections 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long by  $\frac{7}{8}$ " high, and 1 gate the same size. The 1 dozen boxes are in a lithographed display box, weighing 12 ounces. **Retail .25 each**

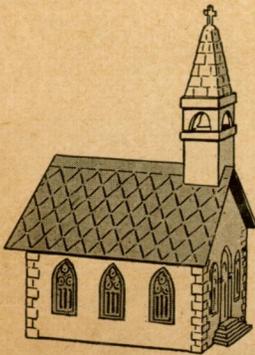


**LM-3 FREIGHT STATION KIT**

Green roof, green pillars, rustic platform with steps and ramp. Packed 1 platform in attractive box, weighing 5 ounces. **Retail .69 each**

*All ite*

# Beautiful in Design



## CC-8 CHURCH KIT

Gray roof, white walls, gray ecclesiastical windows and door, white belfry steeple with metal bell and plastic gold-plated cross. Packed 1 church in attractive litho. box, weighing 9 ounces. Retail \$1.00 each



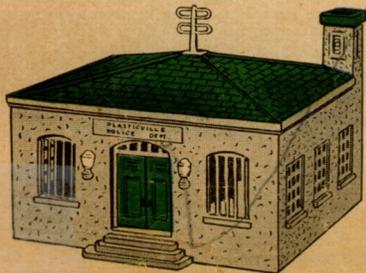
## HY-6 HOUSE & YARD ACCESSORIES UNIT

1 Cape Cod house, 1 spruce tree, 1 outdoor barbecue, 2 benches, 11 pieces fence, 1 piece gate. A unit developed by customer request, weighing 8 ounces per unit. Retail \$1.49 each



## LC-2 LOG CABIN KIT

1 Log Cabin, 11 pieces fence, 1 piece gate, 1 evergreen tree. Packed in litho. display box, weighing 8 ounces. Retail .89 each



## PD-3 POLICE STATION KIT

Green roof, gray sides with police antenna on roof. Modern glow in the dark door lights. Packed 1 police station in attractive box, weighing 9 ounces. Retail \$1.25 each



## DE-7 DINER KIT

Packed 1 to a box, weighing 5 ounces each. Assorted colors. Retail \$1.00 each



## FH-4 FIRE HOUSE KIT

Red roof, white sides and red doors. Latest overhead hanging doors for engine to come out. Packed 1 fire house in attractive box, weighing 9 ounces. Retail \$1.25 each

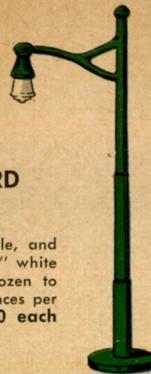


## RS-8 RAILROAD STATION KIT

Green roof, white sides, green doors, rustic platform with ramps. 1 station in attractive box, weighing 9 ounces. Retail \$1.25 each

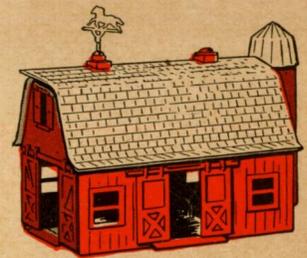
## SL-1 BOULEVARD LIGHT

Green base and pole, and a "glow in the dark" white globe. Packed 1 dozen to box, weighing 3 ounces per dozen. Retail .10 each



## BN-1 BARN KIT

White roof, red sides and doors; with detachable silo. Packed 1 barn and silo in attractive box, weighing 8 ounces. Retail \$1.00 each



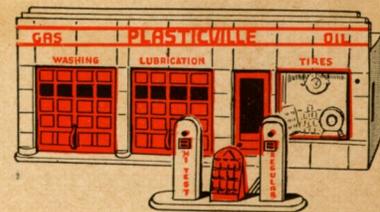
## RH-1 RANCH HOUSE KIT

Up-to-date ranch house in assorted beautiful colors, packed one of a color to an attractive litho. display box, weighing 7 ounces. Specify colors. Retail \$1.25 each



## HP-9 CAPE COD HOUSE KIT

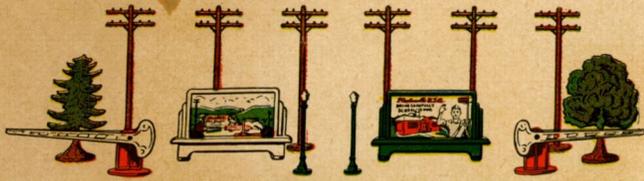
Plastic house with shingled roof, stucco walls. Packed one of color in litho. display box, weighing 6 ounces. Retail .89 each



## GO-2 GAS STATION KIT

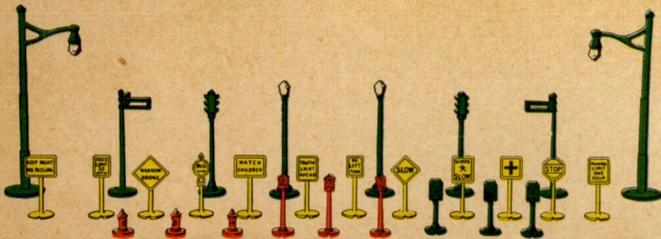
Red roof, white sides, red service doors that open. With gas pumps and oil can rack. Packed 1 in attractive box, weighing 6 ounces. Retail \$1.00 each

Items packed 12 in Shelf Package



**RA-6 RAILROAD ACCESSORIES UNIT**

Containing 6 telephone poles, 2 street lights that glow in the dark, 2 billboards, 2 railroad crossing gates, one evergreen tree, and one maple tree. Weight 9 ounces per unit. Retail \$1.00 each



**ST-1 STREET ACCESSORIES UNIT**

Made to scale. Assorted 12 new road signs, 3 fire hydrants, 3 fire alarm boxes, 3 mail boxes, 2 street signs, 2 boulevard lights, 2 street lights and 2 traffic signals. Packed in attractive display box. Weight—3 ounces per unit. Retail \$1.00 each



**SC-4 SCHOOL KIT**

The very latest in school building design with glow in the dark lights mounted on each side of the door. Very attractive tower and weather vane mounted on top. Packed 1 school in colorful litho. display box, weighing 8 ounces. Retail \$1.25 each



**BY-4 BARN YARD ANIMAL SET**

15 plastic plain and painted assorted animals: cows, horses, pigs, sheep. All to scale. In attractive display box. Weight—5 ounces per set. Retail \$1.00 each



**This Display  
AT NO COST TO YOU**

Fully set-up, mounted on masonite base it is the most valuable sales display ever offered to toy dealers.

Just order \$50.00 assorted  
**PLASTICVILLE**  
 from your wholesaler  
 (at your cost price)  
 We will send the display and two  
 \$5.00 HU-7 House Units  
 Total Resale Value Over  
 \$25.00  
 Your Cost \$10.00 plus  
 transportation charges

**USE THIS HANDY ORDER**

**FRANK MARTIN CO. LTD.,  
 432 Church St., Toronto.**

I am interested in your Plasticville Display Offer. Please ship through my wholesaler the following:

- Your suggested assortment — \$50.00 of fast moving Plasticville units.
- My order assorted as attached.

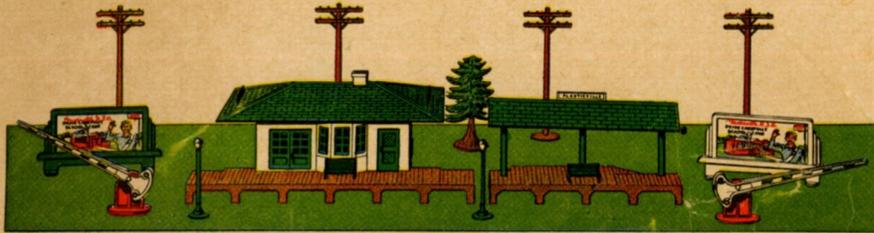
SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

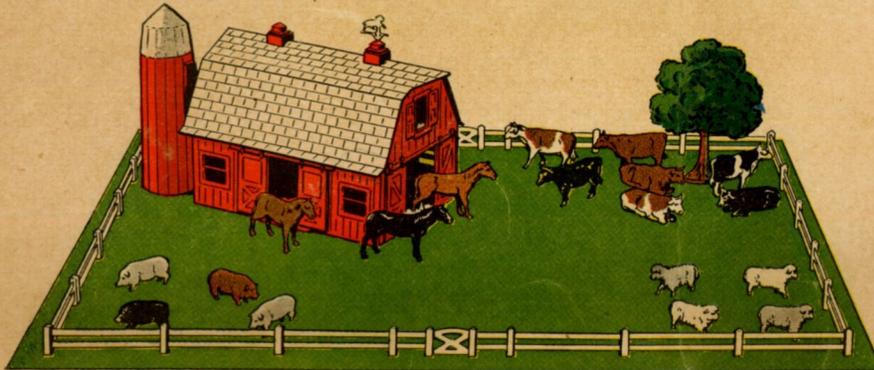
WHOLESALE \_\_\_\_\_

# Built to scale for Model Railroads



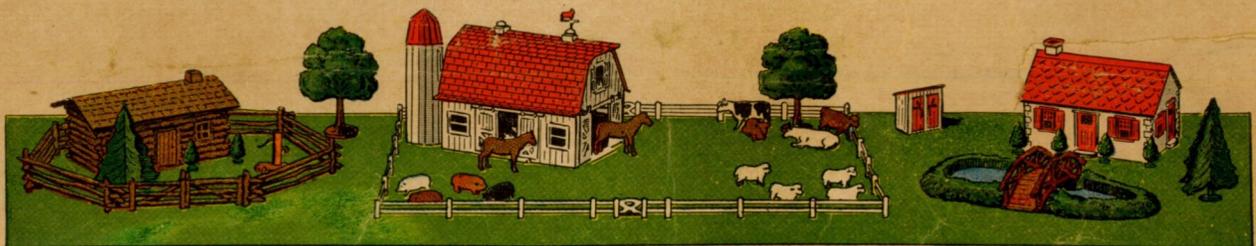
## TA-1 TRAIN ACCESSORIES UNIT

Consists of 1 Railroad station, 1 freight station, 2 railroad crossing gates, 4 telephone poles, 2 billboards, 2 street lamps, 1 evergreen tree and 2 benches. Weight: 1 lb., 2 oz. per unit. Retail \$2.79 each



## BA-7 BARN & ANIMAL UNIT

Outstanding assortment consisting of 1 barn, 22 pieces fence, 2 pieces gate, 1 maple tree, 15 assorted animals. Weight: 16 ounces per unit. 12 units to shipping carton, weighing approximately 14 lbs. Retail \$2.79 each



## RU-3 RURAL UNIT

1 barn, 1 Cape Cod house, 1 log cabin, 22 pieces fence, 2 pieces gate, 1 yard pump, 1 bridge and pond, 1 outhouse, 2 spruce trees, 2 maple trees, 15 assorted animals. Weight: 2 lbs., 6 oz. per unit. Retail \$4.98 each



## SU-5 SHOPPING UNIT

1 police station, 1 gas station, 1 fire house, 1 diner, 2 boulevard lights, 2 street signs, 1 each: fire hydrant, fire alarm box, mail box, and 2 traffic lights. Weight: 2 lbs., 2 oz. per unit. Retail \$4.98 each



## HU-7 HOUSE UNIT

2 ranch houses, 2 Cape Code houses, 3 maple trees, 2 boulevard lights, 3 telephone poles, 2 street lights, 1 only barbecue. Weight: 2 lbs. per unit. Retail \$4.98 each

**Bill Nole PLASTICVILLE for Sale**  
**570-343-2236 (Bill or Kim)**

**319 Oak St., Dunmore PA 18512**  
**E mail Address: pvmayor@cox.net**

**Plasticville Full Color Price Guide(Purple Cover) Over 100 pages and 90 plus color photos \$30**

**Boxed Kits, Complete**

1981 Farm Building Scenic Classic \$35  
0400 Mobile Home (Blue or Cream walls) \$10 Mint  
0500 King Apartment House (Brown) \$30  
0550 King Add A Floor (Brown or Red) \$8 each 3/\$20  
1504 Trailer \$30  
1983 Colonial Mansion Scenic Classic \$20 Mint  
1984 Colonial Church Scenic Classic \$25 Mint  
1985 Log Cabin under boxed \$30  
1611 Hardware & Pharmacy (Rare Art Deco box) \$45  
45985 LCCA Air Admin Bldg Orange/Blue, \$20 Mint

1923 Roadside Stand \$20 Mint  
1809 Loading Platform \$15 Mint  
1607 Fire Dept W/DARK GREY SIREN \$75  
FH-4 Fire Dept W/LIGHT GREY SIREN \$75  
1987 Barn Scenic Classic \$18 Mint  
1624 House Under Construction \$30  
1804 Greenhouse, \$30  
45986 LCCA Hangar, \$20 Mint  
ON-5 Outdoor Necessities \$35

**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  
KING Add A Floors (red or brown) sealed \$4 each, 3/\$10

**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, Frosty Bar: stool \$1, Sign \$5

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

Airport: windsock, : CHIMNEY: Log Cabin, Switch Tower, Loading Platform, Watchman's Shanty,  
Suburban Station, Cape Cod, Ranch House, Factory: railing Colonial Mansion: half chimney, New  
England Ranch: half chimney, ANTENNA: 2 story colonial, New England ranch, Police station, Police  
Station: antenna base WEATHERVANE: Barn, School, Independence Hall, Hospital: siren, Fire  
Department: siren, Barn caps, Church cross, Split Level downspouts, Watchman Shanty light, 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.

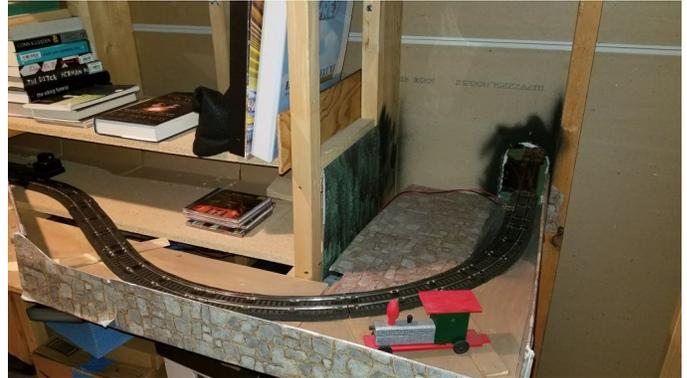
Shipping: Boxed Plasticville \$7, No Box Plasticville \$5, Parts, \$4

# I RAN OUT OF SPACE!

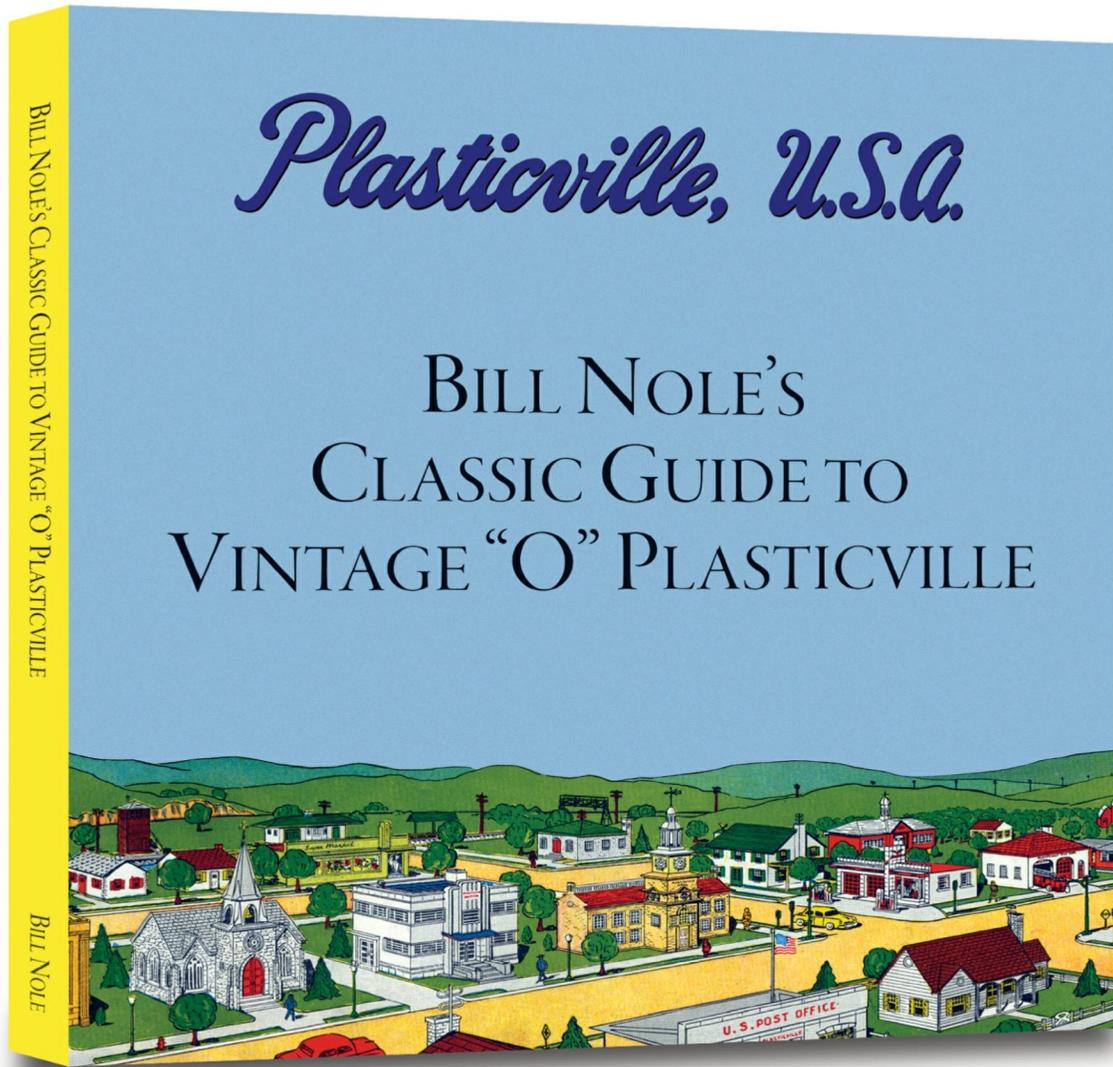
GARY CONNOR

After having completely filled my platform with American Flyer and Plasticville, I decided to build a second platform. The problem was that my basement narrows to the point where I didn't have enough room to allow the train to make a full circle. I pondered this and then came up with an idea: run it through the wall and back through the shelves in the closet behind the wall. This also meant approaching my wife with the concept. When I asked her if it would be okay to punch two holes through the sheetrock, she thought about it then said, "Okay as long as I can paint clouds on the wall behind the platform." Done!

I also recently acquired an American Flyer hand car and tippie cars. Both of my train platforms were full but it occurred to me that a train like this might be found in a coal mine. So I created one! In the photos you can see that I hung the platform from the underside of my existing platform. Granted, you have to bend over to see it, but everyone seems to enjoy it!



**THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE HAS RETURNED**



Bill Nole's Classic Guide to Vintage "O" Plasticville is a must-have for all Plasticville, Lionel, American Flyer and Marx collectors. Long considered the definitive work on this collectible category, Bill's book features an item-by-item look at every Plasticville O gauge item ever created by Bachmann during the postwar period. In addition, the book covers their 50th anniversary releases, King Distributing's Collector Series, Make'N'Play, Lionel Plasticville, and much more. The 2020 edition contains current values plus updates from previous editions. Softcover, 204 pages, color throughout. The book is available now from [PlasticvilleGuide.com](http://PlasticvilleGuide.com) for just \$29.95 plus shipping (and tax where applicable). Thank you for your support!

**VISIT [PLASTICVILLEGUIDE.COM](http://PLASTICVILLEGUIDE.COM) TO LEARN MORE**

# K-LINE KRONICLES

## #K-122 Fuel Station

ED BERG

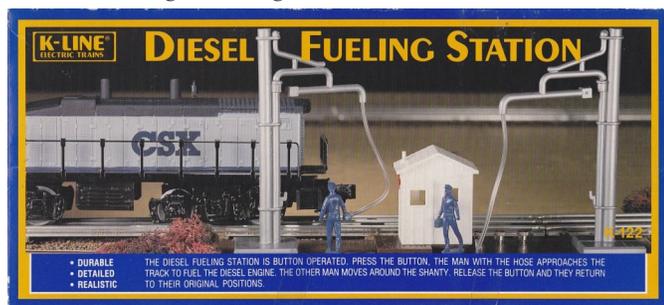


Copyrighted in 1993, the K-Line Diesel Fueling Station was a good replacement for the original Marx version which had begun to get scarce and pricey, often times only available without a box or tattered box, or worse yet – broken! The K-Line version differed from the original Marx by having a darker brown base, a white shack vs. the brown of the original, and blue figures vs. the silver of the original. This accessory is as relevant now as it was when Marx originally introduced it circa 1958. The figures are decently scaled for O-gauge and anyone who runs Marx F-7 diesels, or Lionel F-3's or any of the modern remakes of older style engines can certainly use this in their servicing yard. It measures 10<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"L × 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"W × 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"H, is illuminated, and has a moving man on the platform as well as the shack - both activated by a control button. The two fuel pumps swivel and each have a flexible refueling hose with a control house in the center of the platform. The control button was a totally new design by K-Line as they never re-utilized any of the older style Marx controls.



Enjoy!

Ed "ICE" Berg, Las Vegas, NV



*Plasticville and Toy Trains*  
Buy, Sell or Trade Plasticville & Lionel Trains  
Specializing in Plasticville parts

*Tom Landis*  
Train Collector

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### OPERATION OF THE STATION

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MATTHEW MONAGHAN

---

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# K-LINE LAMPPOSTS



DONALD W. HUOVINEN

“NEW IN 1983”, “LIGHTED ACCESSORIES”, “These K-Line Accessories are new in 1983 – they are authentic looking reproductions of old time fixtures: a perfect addition to any layout”.

Thus was K-Line’s hype for their new lighted accessories. This article will focus on three of those lighted accessories, and their variations, introduced in that year. Interestingly the identical claim was made in the 1984 catalog, i.e. “These K-Line Accessories are new in 1984 – they are authentic looking reproductions of old time fixtures: a perfect addition to any layout”.

Two of these accessories were among the longest running in the K-Line catalogs, being cataloged from 1983 through 2000.

The photo below shows the different types of lampposts discussed in this article: K105 Lampposts, K-106 Lampposts With Firebox, Police Callbox and Mail Box, and K-109 Twin Lampposts.



Photo 1

## K-105 Lampposts

These lampposts were issued as a set of three and were similar to the Marx #074 Lamp Post from which they were derived. The lampposts were cataloged from 1983 through 2000. The lampposts were black. The lampposts were wrapped in tissue paper and came packaged in a Type 13 or 14 box. The box and contents are shown in Photo 2. There was one Instruction Sheet which was common for all three types of lampposts. The Instruction Sheets were not consistently included in the boxes.

The K-1103 Little Girls Classic Train set, available from 1991 to 1996, included 3 pastel blue lampposts. The lampposts were otherwise identical to the regular lampposts.

K-Line’s second girl’s set, the K-1123S (with Rail-sounds) or K-1123W (with air whistle) cataloged only in 2002, included 5 pink lampposts. These lampposts were also otherwise identical to the regular lampposts.

In 1986 K-Line first cataloged the K-105X Lampposts with Lockon. These were identical to the K-105 Lampposts but now included 3 lockons. They were last cataloged in 1996. Marx also marketed lampposts which included lockons for use with trains that operated with transformers having only two binding posts.



Photo 2

## K-106 Lamppost With Firebox, Police Call Box, and Mail Box

These lampposts were cataloged from 1983 through 1996 and were similar to the Marx #073/3 Lighted Boulevard Lamp Post Set. As such these lampposts were identical to the K-105 lamppost with an “attached box to add interest to your layout”. The attached boxes were red (Fire), white (Police) and blue (Mail). The lampposts were wrapped in tissue paper and were packaged in a Type 13 or 14 box. In



Photo 3

the early issues of the sets the three boxes were furnished separately and had to be attached to the lampposts by the purchaser. Later issues came with the boxes already attached to the lampposts. Photo 3 shows the box and contents. Photo 4 shows the individual boxes which were to be attached to the lampposts. Photo 5

is the instruction sheet with instructions for gluing the

boxes to the lampposts. As previously stated, this same instruction sheet was used for all three of the lampposts.



Photo 4

### K-109 Twin Lampposts

These “turn of the century classic” lampposts were similar to the Marx #078 Twin Lamp Post. They were cataloged from 1983 through 2000. Two lampposts were included.

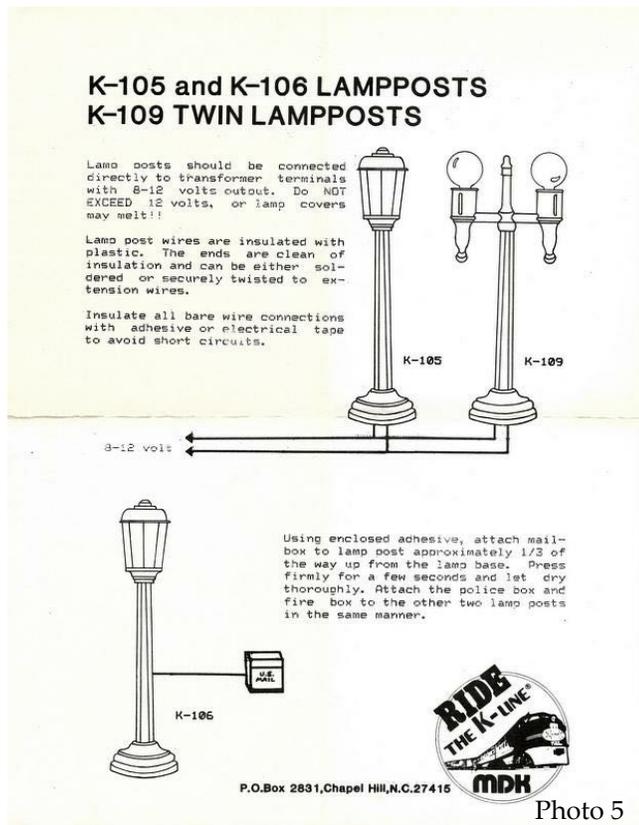


Photo 5

The lampposts were green. The lampposts were wrapped in tissue paper and were packaged in a Type 13 or 14 box. The bulbs for the lampposts, which were clear round bulbs, were wrapped separately in tissue paper and in turn packed into small cardboard boxes, two bulbs per box. The contents of the packaged lampposts are shown in Photo 6.

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

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Photo 6

## Hunting for strange and unusual Plasticville.



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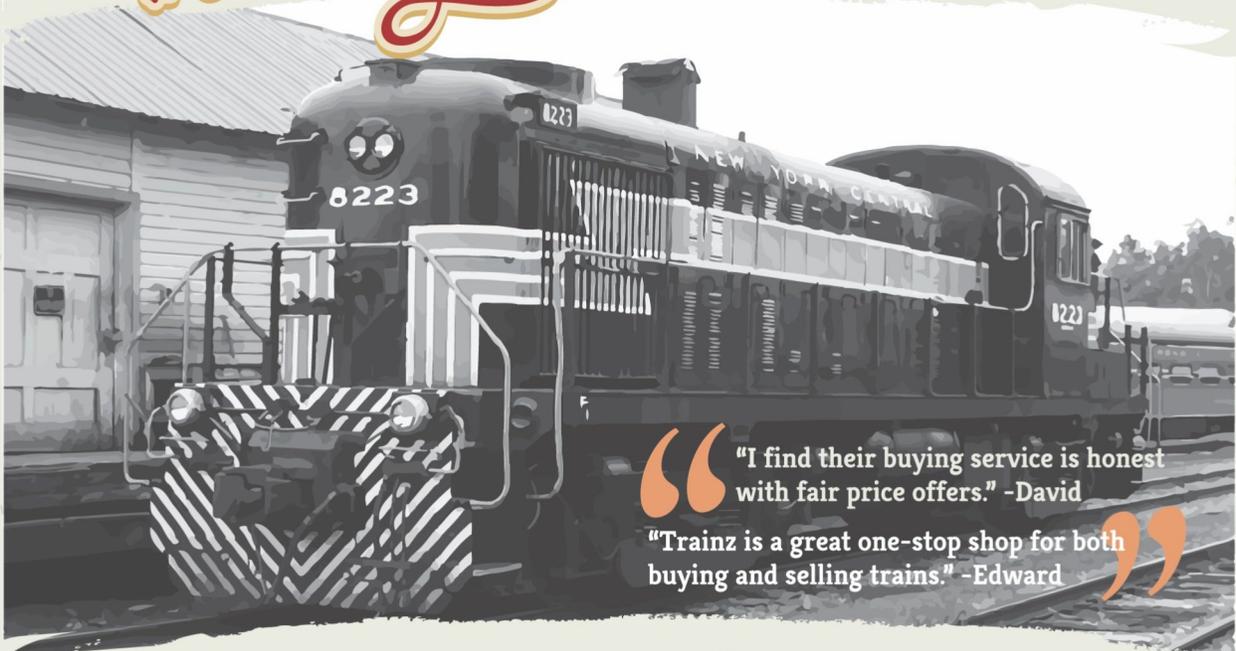
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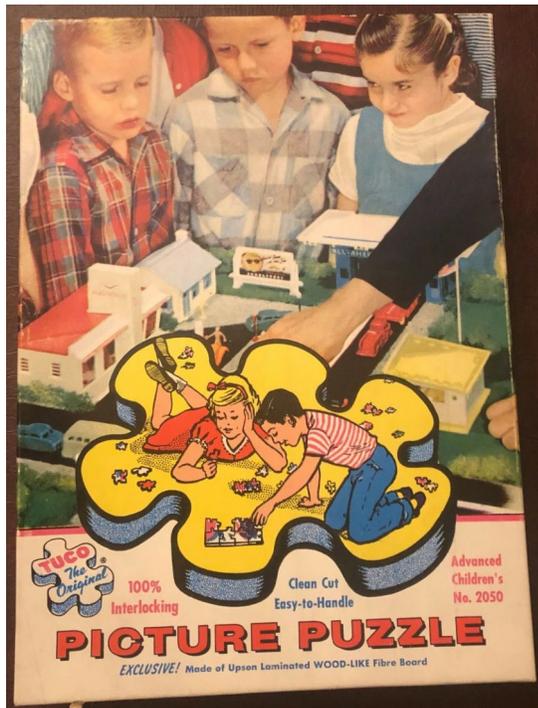
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# A PLASTICVILLE PUZZLE

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

Here we have a Plasticville themed puzzle manufactured by Tuco. Not a lot of information is known about this product. According to some online research, Tuco Work Shops Inc. was based in Lockport NY, and operated from 1932 to 1984. They made die-cut cardboard puzzles. You can find several Tuco puzzles on online auction sites, but the Plasticville version appears hard to find. An interesting note, which makes the puzzle harder to complete, is that the cover shows

only a fraction of the puzzle. You can see three children's faces centered on the box.



When you assemble the puzzle you find that there are actually 10 children and the policeman. The large gas station, light blue-roofed cape cod, yellow roofed frosty bar, and the turnpike interchange are featured in the puzzle. There are also several accessories including cars, a bus, citizens, a Solarex billboard, and a flag pole. Some small miscellaneous items like fireboxes and street name signs are also shown. It appears that the Police officer is using the Plasticville set up to teach the children about safety. There is no sign of any railroad-themed items in the graphic.

The puzzle is part of the "Advanced Children's Series" and is numbered 2050. It contains 100 large pieces, the box advertises them as "WOOD-LIKE Fibre Board".



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# BACK IN THE BOX / A CONTINUING SERIES ON REPACKING PLASTICVILLE

## BN-1 Type Barn

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

One of the biggest issues I have with storing Plasticville pieces is getting them back into the box in which they were packed so that the box closes completely. That not only means that I can close the box but that there are no pieces sticking up to bulge the lid or prevent it from closing completely. I have spent considerable time with some pieces. The BN-1 type barn seems to be one of the major problems when getting it back into the box. The photos with this article is my step by step process to get it "back in the box".

Place the box in front of you with it open and the top folded away from you.

Photo 1: Place the roof sections into the box on top of each other with their undersides showing and their pointed ends opposite each other.



Photo 2: Slide the sections to the back of the box.



Photo 3: Lay the side wall with the sliding doors right side up in on top of the roof sections.



Photo 4: Lay the side with the Dutch door right side up in on top of the previous piece resting its bottom edge on the upper edge of the previous pieces' threshold.



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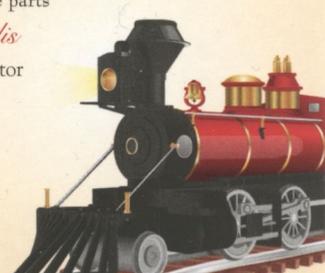


Photo 5: Lay the end walls in with the wall with the silo mounting section face down and the double door end wall face up. Push both to the back of the box as far as possible.



Photo 6: Install the cap on the silo and place it in the open area in the front of the box with its mounting extension down. Place the ventilators and weathervane in the remaining space in the front of the box.

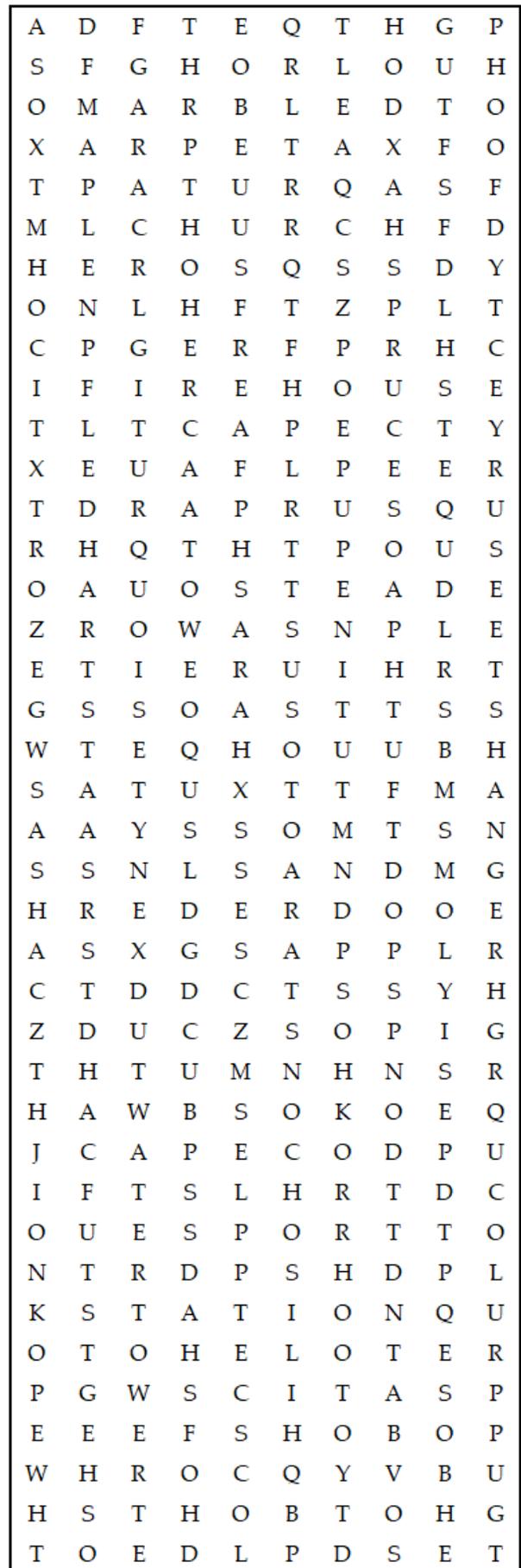


Hint: An easy way to keep from losing the ventilators and weathervane is to wrap them in a tissue paper and then insert them into the bottom of the silo.

## CAN YO FIND THESE?

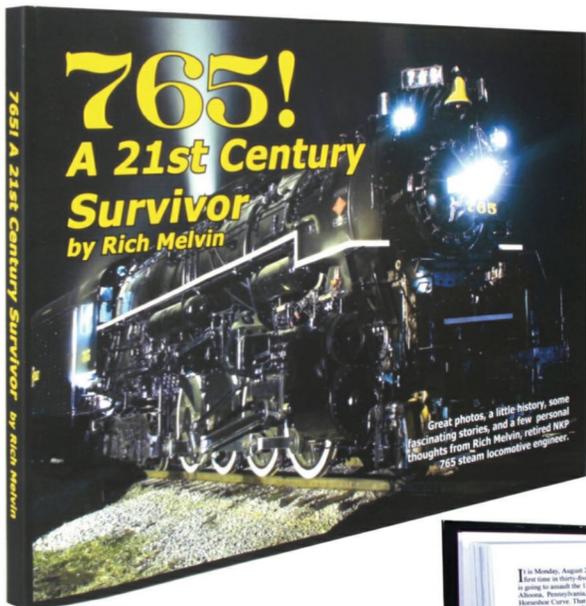
Locate these Plasticville words horizontal, vertical, and diagonal.

- Marbled
- Turquoise
- Capecod
- Watertower
- Firehouse
- Spruce
- Maple
- Autumn
- Sandstone
- Hanger
- Station
- Church
- Red
- Hobo



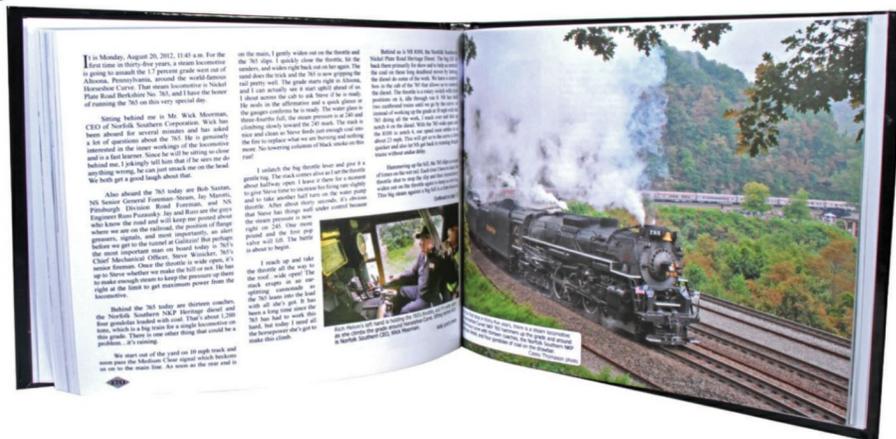
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**The Villager is looking for new contributors. Contact the editor to find out how to participate and share your knowledge.**

### *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

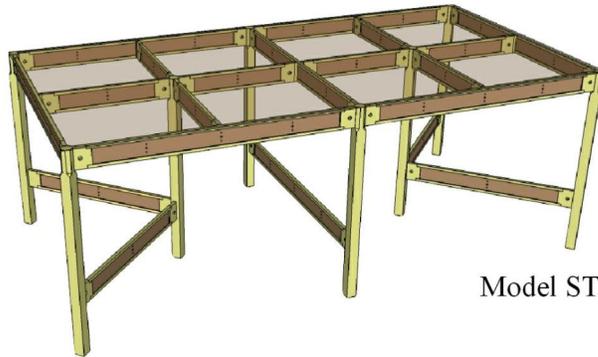


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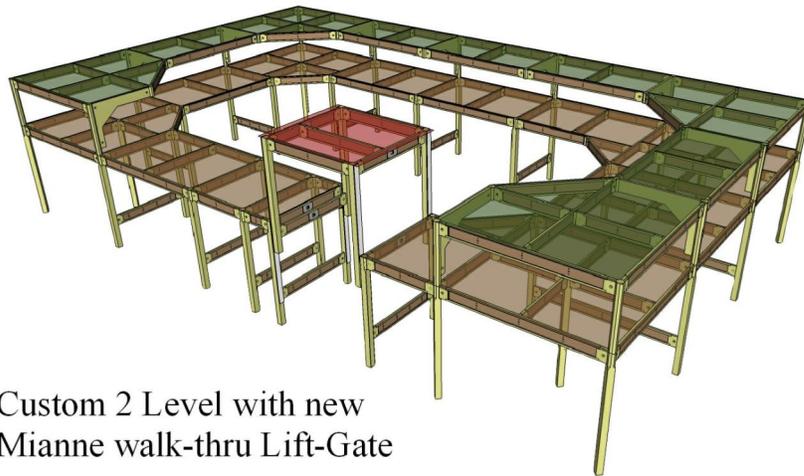
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# PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

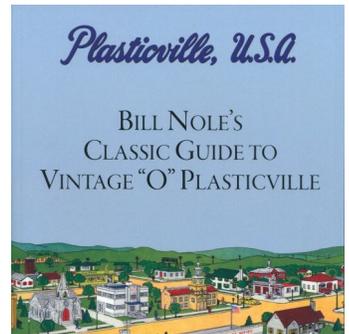
**B**ill Nole's *Classic Guide to Vintage "O" Plasticville*, Bill Nole, 202 pages, softcover, 8½ × 8½ format, \$29.95. This is the first Plasticville guide published since before the great recession. It is an updated version of that previous guide. As with the previous edition this edition also includes Storytown, Make 'N' Play, and Lionel Plasticville. This edition has both a dedication and a foreword whereas the previous edition did not have a foreword. Sandwiched between these is a table of contents, again, something not in the previous edition. The foreword contains information on uncatalogued items such as the LCCA and TCA special edition pieces. It also touches quite well on grading. I would call it recommended reading especially if you are new to collecting Plasticville.

The format of each chapter is the same as in the previous edition in that all of the pieces in the chapter are discussed and then followed by a listing of each piece previously discussed, an inclusive listing of the piece's part/stock number, the color variations, and the value as of the guide's printing. I say "value as of the guide's printing" as the vast majority of values are considerably lower than in

the previous edition. For example; the 1907 Apartment House is valued in Like New Boxed condition at \$25 as opposed to \$90 in the previous edition. The factory is now valued at \$35 as opposed to \$95 in Like New Boxed condition in the previous edition. It is my sentiment that these prices are pretty much in line with what I have been able to sell them for at train shows in the Midwest.

This guide is a welcome update to the previous edition and should be your go to publication for current Plasticville values.

**Bill Nole's Classic Guide to Vintage "O" Plasticville**, can be purchased directly from the publisher through <https://www.plasticvilleguide.com/> for the price stated above. The site also has some sample pages for viewing. I found the guide on Amazon a while back but it does not seem to be listed there at present. The prices on Amazon were higher than the website price of \$29.95.



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**A**fter Promontory: One Hundred Years of Transcontinental Railroad, edited by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, 320 pages, hardcover, 10 ½ × 10 ½ format, \$60. Published by Indiana University Press.

As one can imagine from the listed author, the book is mostly photographs. The photographs range from very early construction photos of the Transcontinental to color photos of more modern vintage.

Four well known railroad historians provide essays as introductions to various sections of this book. They include Maury Klein, Keith L Bryant Jr., Don L Hofsommer, and Drake Hokanson. A brief biography of each contributor is included on the dust jacket. The essays are lengthy but highly informative and are interspersed with photos relative to the era being discussed by the author. There is an Early Views and Modern Views chapter immediately following each essay. The titles of these chapters include; To the Far West, To the Desert West, and to the Northwest and are nearly full page or even double page photos with excellent captions.

With all that there are also biographies of the contributing photographers and an index to their photos. There is also

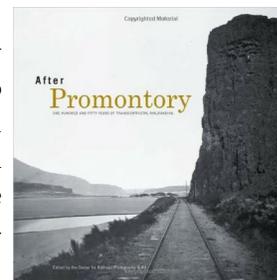
**765! A 21st Century Survivor**, Rich Melvin, 192 pages, hardcover, 11 × 9 format, \$59.95. Published by Rich Melvin, LLC. Over 200 photos mostly in color. Who better to author a book about the 765 than a person who was intimately involved with its operation for over 34 years. He was both a crew member as well as the Operations Manager for over 30 of those years. There is the usual introduction by the author but on the preceding page is an In Memoriam listing former crew members who have passed on. To me that is just plain classy.

Some of the chapters are written by others. Chapter two is 18 pages in length. It is a reprint, complete with captioned pictures, charts, and diagrams that originally appeared in the October, 1962 issue of *Trains* magazine. But I digress.

The first chapter, Evolution of the Breed, describes how the Berkshire was created in response to the need for more power than was available from the 2-8-2 "Super Mike" Mikado locomotives. The following chapters relate how the engine was rescued from an outdoor display where it was starting to seriously deteriorate. It also describes how when planning a return trip home that it is highly advisable to ensure that there is enough water in the tender. Another chapter describes how modern technology, flange greasers, caused the locomotive to continually lose speed and enter a tunnel at well below the preferred speed of 50 MPH. I will let you read the consequences of the slower speed. There are two chapters describing 765's

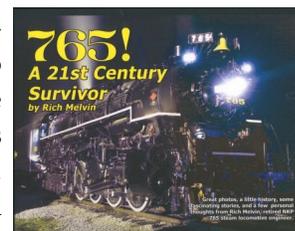
a short Acknowledgments/Donors page as well as a page of information regarding the Center for Railroad Photography & Art.

The dust jacket photo caught my eye and I decided that I needed to see what was inside. I am glad that I did. I hope that you will enjoy the essays, as well as the illustrated vintage photos, stereopticon slides, and postcards.



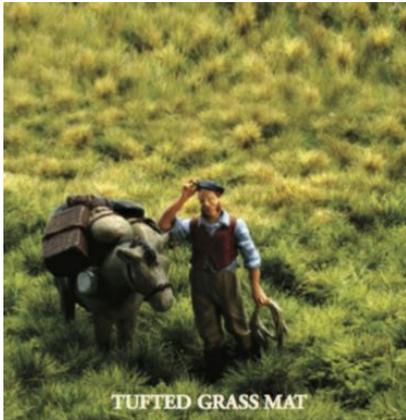
**After Promontory: One Hundred Years of Transcontinental Railroad** is available from the Indiana University Press at <https://iupress.org/>. A search using the word promontory navigated me to the book's page. The page also lists an E-book for \$49.99 in addition to the hard copy. It seems, though, that the book cannot be purchased directly from them but must be purchased through a favorite book store. The page contains links to Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop, and Books-A-Million. Amazon was the only site to offer an E-book. It lists a Kindle version for \$9.99. I also found it on Hamilton Books. Prices varied considerably across the above mentioned sites. It may take a bit of searching to find the best price.

trips on the famous Pennsylvania Horseshoe Curve. My two favorite photos in this book are in these chapters. Both photos show 765 ascending the curve. The first photo with a "just in case you need help" diesel and the second with 765 pulling 13 passenger cars all by herself.



This is a rare book in my opinion. One can read histories of locomotives and their restorations and operations but when the author is intimately involved it just makes it so much better. I thoroughly enjoyed reading all 22 chapters. I am sure that you will also.

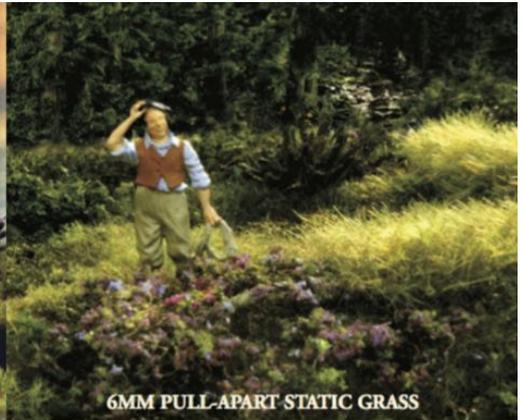
**765! A 21st Century Survivor** is available from the publisher's website at <https://765book.com>. Clicking the "BUY NOW" button on the above noted page will navigate you to the page to start the purchase process. The book is available in either a hard cover version for \$59.99 plus shipping or a soft cover version for \$49.99 plus shipping. It can also be ordered by mail at Richard Melvin, LLC, PO Box 307, Hilliard, OH 43026. Add \$10 for shipping if you order by mail. The book is available on the Barnes and Noble website in both formats at the publisher's prices but with free shipping. It is listed on the Amazon website at \$44.55 and \$28.21 for the hard and soft cover editions, respectively. I did not find it offered on the Hamilton Books website.



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