



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 21

December 2022

Number 3

“STITCHING” A SIGN?

ERIC MALGREN

It was just another Baraboo yard sale. Considering the immediate “urban” area (including the village of West Baraboo) is barely over fifteen thousand, they seem have a lot more of them here than we saw in the Northwest. This is probably because everything is so compact. No one is far from anything. No sale is out of the way. Anyway, we stopped. We recently bought a travel trailer and will be heading out for a volunteer service tour and we wanted to see what they might have that we could use with it.

A folding wooden bookshelf immediately caught my eye. I was pretty sure we had a spot for it (turns out I was right). As my wife continued working through tables of household items, I looked through bags and bags of toys. I was planning a small portable layout – Thomas, a Toonerville Trolley, and some Plasticville and was looking for some cars with “personality.” No luck there.

As I wandered the tables, what did catch my eye was a plastic sandwich bag with a die cut double-sided A&P advertising card – 3 of them actually. Cream card stock with red for the trim outlining the edges, a picture of an A&P store, the A&P trademark and the lettering. Green trees and window highlights complete the graphics. Below the A&P logo reads the slogan “COME SEE COME SAVE AT A.&P. Super Markets.” Arched down the right on one side are the words “Made in West Germany.”

Curiosity got the better of me. It was clearly folded in half, but why? So I pulled one out of its bag. I unfolded the card to find it was a packet of sewing needles. I placed it back in the bag. It was clearly an era piece from the days of



green stamps and free maps. The lady holding the sale said they were fifty cents each. In my mind I turned over the possibilities of a billboard while debating getting all three. I settled on one. The card was going on the scanner and a person only gets so many slivers.

I remember seeing A&P stores in Seattle when I was growing up but I can not remember where. And, I certainly do not remember being in one, which may or may not be true. With a couple of exceptions, a grocery store was just a grocery store. I grew up in West Seattle. We lived just off California and Morgan where a Tradewell opened shortly after we moved in. Our immediate neighbor was a cashier there for years. Our other store was Safeway. Seattle was a Safeway town. The headquarters were originally on 4th South north of Lander before moving to Belle-

The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

President: Joe Kutza

Vice President: Frank Ross

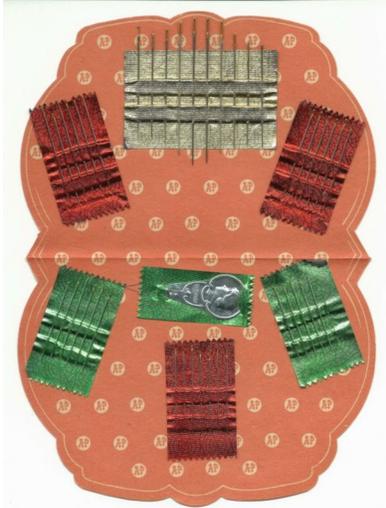
Webmaster: John L. Niehaus

www.plasticvilleusa.org

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

All content © copyright by The Plasticville Collectors Association. Content may not be reproduced in part or in whole without the express written consent of the Plasticville Collectors Association. Contact secretary@plasticvilleusa.org for reprint permission and advertising rates or by USPS mail at PCA, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207

vue and later to California. So, eight blocks up the hill from Tradewell, at 35th and Morgan, was a Safeway. When I say “up,” I mean UP. It was quite a climb and we did not have a car. Our Safeway was at California and Dawson, about 6 blocks from home. The blocks were longer, but the walk was easier and it was also on the bus line.



Another Safeway was a few blocks farther in the heart of the Junction. Up near California and Admiral was still another one. There was a QFC across from the high school and from what I have read may have been an A&P, but I seem to recall seeing the building going up when I was in junior high. However, it could be that they were just remodeling it. It was on the night bus route home. Who knows how many times I passed the site before high school. Until then, it was irrelevant and even once it was a daily part of life because of where it was, I don’t remember being in it more than on a couple of times. As for Safeway, there had been another on Spokane Street at Riverside. The building is gone now, but it was still there into the eighties. I am pretty sure it was still open in the



early fifties when we lived a short distance away, but I was under four then and my memories of those days are limited (Among them a snippet of seeing the neighbor’s enclosed porch Lionel layout with a pair of New York Central diesels).

The first thing I did when I got home was look to see what I could learn about my find. Alas, the web is not an all-knowing source of information. The only info I found was on eBay. One listing suggested what I suspected, it was from the fifties, but this was hardly verifiable data. I did learn that I got a bargain. The cheapest offering came

to \$6.00 after adding the postage, twelve times what I paid. It went up from there. \$25.00 anyone? I also learned that there are two versions. The other is red with gold graphics. Besides the colors the stores and wording are different. The red one only says “Compliments of Your A&P.” If this had been the version sitting on the yard sale table, it would still be there. As a billboard on a layout it has zero appeal.

So – on to the billboard. Not wanting to mess up my one prototype, I proceeded to scan the card as a jpg. The cardstock color was not particularly appealing, so I opened it in a graphics program and converted the cream background to a white. This took some time since I had to increase the resolution to get at a lot of scattered pixels that would not disappear with a broad stroke. I was satisfied with my effort. I felt the red and green on the white was attractive. I did leave the store the original color.

Having got the graphic looking like I wanted it, I went on to print it. I had saved some glossy cardstock material with the thought of making signs and window inserts. However, this proved to be too heavy for my laser printer. Consequently, I printed the image on common copy paper and using spray on glue, attached the printout to the cardstock. After giving it time to dry, I cut it out with scissors.

Because I wanted to maintain the original size and shape, my plan was to use some balsa scraps to put together a framework. There were several objections to this in my mind. First, time – I am not known for my patience with this sort of thing. Second, I currently I have no place to display it. That means I would need to, third, store it. Odds are I would either have to repair the sign or rebuild it later. What to do? I felt the idea was worth sharing with others. So, I decided to see if I could use it with a Plasticville billboard and dug one out. Turns out the unaltered



graphic fits nicely over the face of the sign frame. I used tacky glue to attach the graphic to the frame. It holds better on plastic than the usual white glue and is easily peeled off when no longer needed.

For anyone who might be interested, you can email me at ericma1587@gmail.com and I will be happy to send you a copy of my file.

Serious Buyer

Travels anywhere to buy train collections!

Long time advertiser buying electric trains!
Specializing in larger train collections and estates.

Will travel **anywhere** for larger train collections.
In business for over **25 years.**
Offers professionalism, confidentiality, and fairness.

Easy to deal with, and very honest!
Please contact Charles Siegel personally by phone, fax, letter, or e-mail.

Charles P. Siegel

321.799.4005

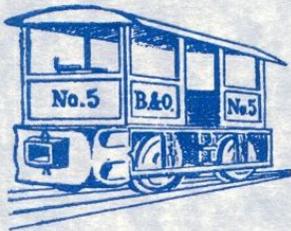
387 Imperial Blvd., Suite 2, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Fax 321.799.4044

Email: trainman@traincity.com

Web site: www.traincity.com

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



JOSEPH L. MANIA

*Toy Train Reproductions
and Restorations*

JLM TRAINS, L.L.C.

17 Douglas Rd.
Freehold, NJ 07728
(732) 303-8299

www.JLMTRAINS.com
JOE@JLMTRAINS.com

Lionel • Plasticville • American Flyer

www.GarysTrains.com

GARY'S TRAINS

BUY • SELL • REPAIR



Gary Mosholder

gtrains186@gmail.com

Boswell, PA 15531-2421

814-629-9277

EDITOR'S COLUMN



I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Villager*, we have some new content from our regular contributors as well as some new contributors. You too can be a contributor! Perhaps you got a new item that you would like to share with the readers? Could be you noticed something interesting on an item in your collection or on your layout? Maybe you like to bring life to old parts with custom creations? If you answered yes to any of these questions they would all make for excellent contributions. Just get in touch with me and we can put something together. We can provide assistance with editing, writing, and photo cropping and cleanup.

Did you notice the 2022 Bachmann catalog lists 75th anniversary reissues are coming for O/S and HO buildings? I hope that they will produce new colors. Please write in if you find these for sale with photos!

Matt Harvazinski, *The Villager* Editor

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org



Sold For \$40,000

**Thinking of Selling Your Trains?
WE ARE A FULL SERVICE AUCTION CO.
*Coast To Coast, We Do The Most!***

Willing To Travel & Do All Aspects of Selling Your Collection
Carefully Packing, Hauling, Professional Cataloging
& Marketing Your Trains.

**BENEFITS OF SELLING AT AUCTION
ARE THAT WE ARE WORKING FOR YOU.**

*Our Experience Has Shown That Opposed To Selling Privately,
Our Auction Results Are Often More Than Double!*

QUICK CONSIGNOR PAYMENT FOLLOWING SALE.

**ALWAYS ACCEPTING QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS
ONE ITEM OR ENTIRE COLLECTION**

HO • Prewar • Post War Lionel • American Flyer • Ives • LGB
Modern Era of Numerous Manufacturers
Plasticville & Other Accessories

**WE ALSO SELL TOYS, RAILRODIANA, AUTOMOBILIA
& RELATED ITEMS.**

A Lifetime Of Experience

TED MAURER: Auctioneer - TCA# 66-1613
BOB HOMAN: Auctioneer - TCA# 15-71045
JOHN HUMS: Auctioneer - TCA# 17-73048
RUSS MULLER: Cataloging Team - TCA# 87-24627
GARY SCHOENLY: General Manager - TCA# 10-65778
JARED SCHOENLY: Proprietor - TCA# 12-67424

Visit Us
In The
Orange Hall
At The
TCA York Meets

"Service Beyond Our Years"



**Call 800 789-5068 or
610 587-8139**

Auction Co. # AY002122



Check www.CabinFeverAuctions.com

For Details, Photos and to be placed on our Email List for Upcoming Events.

IDENTIFYING REPRODUCTION BN-1 TYPE BARN WEATHERVANES

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

The existence of very good reproduction BN-1 Barn weathervanes have been around for almost as long as I have collected Plasticville. These reproductions were made by a dealer who sold mostly Plasticville. They were injection molded, to the best of my knowledge, as were the original weathervanes. The reproduction pieces do not have the usual very small letter R on them due to their very small size. With that said, there are some features of both that can help one easily identify an original weathervane from a reproduction. A photo has been attached below, along with notes, for a visual comparison .

A comparison between the original and the reproduction shows the following differences:

Original:

- There are two round molding machine ejector pin marks. One is on the left side of the horse and the other is on the bottom round where the two diagonal braces meet.

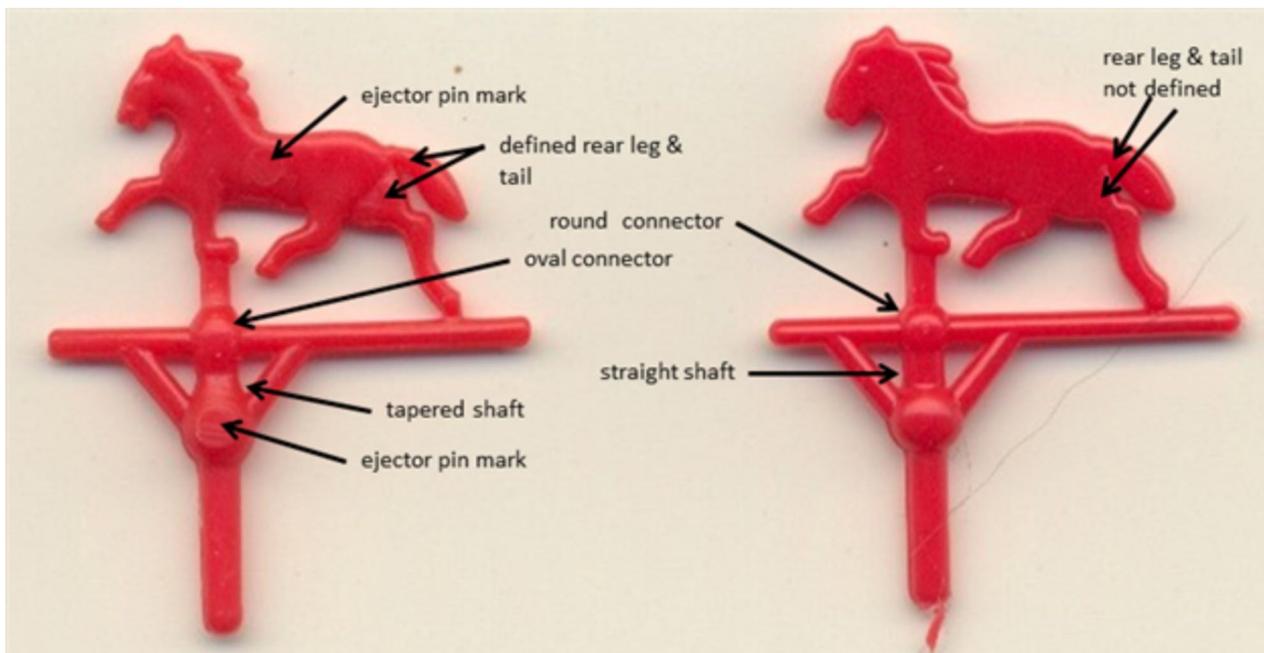
- The shaft between the two rounds is tapered.
- The horizontal and vertical connector immediately below the horse is a vertical oval.
- The place where the tail meets the body is well defined
- The place where the left leg meets the body is well defined

Reproduction:

- The shaft between the two rounds is straight.
- The horizontal and vertical connector immediately below the horse is round and smaller than the oval on an original.
- The place where the tail meets the body blends into the body.
- The place where the left leg meets the body blends into the body.

Original

Reproduction



AMT SNAP TOGETHER MINI GARAGE

JIM BENNETT

I've always wanted to add some car garages to the back and side yards of the Plasticville houses on my platform that don't have one. I came across this S scale (1/64) garage by AMT (AMT1361/12) and it's just what I wanted. They are available from Diecastdirect.com, Hobbylinc.com and other on line retailers for less than \$20. It comes in a poly bag with a cardboard header that has the assembly instructions printed on the back.

If you use S scale vehicles on your layout this can be a two car garage. If you prefer O scale vehicles, as I do, this is a one car garage. In the picture I have an American Dime Store 1/43 scale car shown with its front end sticking out. It's a little too long to fit all the way in and there's only about 1/16" clearance on the roof but I feel it suits my purpose just fine.



The kit contains seven pieces that need to be cut off injection sprues with a xacto knife or diagonal cutters. There is also a set of gold, silver and black diamond shaped stickers to adorn the garage door. The floor, floor extension and roof are molded in gray. The two sides, back wall and garage door are molded in white. The roof has shingle detailing and the sides have simulated siding molded in. The left side wall has two windows and the right side wall has one window and one door. It is 3 7/8" long, 3" wide and 2 1/4" high to the peak of the roof.

The best attribute of this structure is that it easily comes back apart for storage like other Plasticville and K-Line buildings. Assembly involves snapping the protruding tabs into their corresponding slots. My first try was a tad difficult but after pulling it apart and rebuilding it several times it became quite easy.

For added realism the manufacturer recommends applying a thin wash of paint to accentuate the details but I'm happy with it as is. A few of these will add that little touch of detail that makes any layout look more realistic.



BUYING OLD TOYS & TRAINS
SELL & REPAIR ALL TYPES
OF NEW & USED TRAINS

Since 1985

The Underground Railroad Shoppe

BLT 10-85 724-652-4912

1906 Wilmington Road New Castle, PA 16105 • 724-652-4912

LOU PALUMBO
PROPRIETOR

trainplum@yahoo.com
www.undergroundrrshop.com

Do You Remember Your First

#1 Resource for Toy Train Enthusiasts!



Toy Train?

Classic Toy Trains magazine celebrates the joy of collecting and operating toy trains from your past. Whether you're a collector or operator, you'll find a wealth of information to inspire your passion as you experience fond memories.

Your subscription includes 8 issues (1 year) filled with layouts and track plans, compelling photographs, personal collections, and more.

- How-to projects written by experts.
- Profiles of collectible pre/postwar trains.
- Tips, tools, and techniques.
- Product news and reviews.
- O & S gauge trains.
- Bonus online videos and track plans.

It's never too late to rediscover your favorite childhood memories.



Subscribe Now!

2 EASY WAYS TO ORDER:

ONLINE ClassicToyTrains.com • **CALL** 877-243-4903

Outside the United States and Canada, call 903-636-1125.

K-LINE BUBBLING WATER TOWERS



DONALD W. HUOVINEN

In 1946 NOMA introduced their magical bubbling Christmas lights: "Bubble-Lites". These fascinating new lights were an immediate hit. In December 1946 NOMA sold almost 1 million of them. And sales boomed for the next several years. The effect of the illumination and bubbling action was not lost on toy train manufacturers. In 1950, three manufacturers introduced accessories which used the bubbling tube either to simulate water (Colber and American Flyer) or oil (Colber, American Flyer and Lionel). Marx was a little late to the party first cataloging its 0465 Water Tower in 1952. K-Line's re-issue of the Marx Water Tower and its subsequent modifications are the subject of this article.

A few observations about the bubbling towers. On a personal note this was my second most favorite accessory as a child (after the Lionel gateman). The bubbling effect was captivating. I am intrigued by why Marx and K-Line chose to use amber bubbler fluid for the water towers as compared to the clear bubbler fluid that Colber and American Flyer used. Granted the effect is more visible but I would hate to drink that water! The amber fluid is definitely suitable for the simulated oil accessories. Additionally for those who operate the bubbling accessories, sometimes the accessories take an inordinately long time to bubble. A light tap near the base is usually sufficient to start the bubbling action.



Photo 1

K-Line made 4 different bubbling water towers.

K-131 Bubbling Water Tower (Photos 1 and 2)

This water tower is a great action accessory. A light beneath the base lights the tube causing the liquid in the tube to bubble. A very fun accessory! Like the Marx Water Tower, the red light at the top of the tank was simply a piece of red plastic and was not illuminated.

Cataloged: 1986 Regular-2001 First Edition

Color: Black base, tower, platform and railing; silver tank; nickel plated metal ladder. There is no decoration on the



Photo 2

tank. The warning light on top is not functional.

K-0131XX Timken Bubbling Water Tower (Photos 3 and 4)

In 1999 Timken celebrated its 100th Anniversary. K-Line produced a complete train set including an engine, 4 cars, track, transformer, 2 billboards, yard signs, telephone poles, and a bubbling water tower. This set was only available from Timken and is scarce today.

Cataloged: This was never cataloged. It was a component of set K-1822, Timken 100th Anniversary Set, manufactured in 1999.

Color: Black base, tower, platform and railing; nickel plated metal ladder, Orange tank with TIMKEN lettering 3 times around the tower. The warning light on top is not functional.



Photos 3 & 4



Photos 5 & 6

**K-013101 Dairyman's League Bubbling Water Tower
(Photos 5 and 6)**

K-Line upped their game with the introduction of this water tower noting "This bubbling water tower features a warning light on top that blinks"

Catalogued: 2001 Second Edition – 2005 First Edition. It was also was a component of set K-1305AO, Trackside Construction Add-On-Pac, cataloged in 2005 First Edition

Color: Black base, tower, platform and railing; nickel plated metal ladder. Silver tank with Dairyman's League logo. The warning light on the top blinks.



Photos 7 & 8

K-013105 Anheuser-Busch Bubbling Water Tower (Photos 7 and 8)

Catalogued: 2002 Second Edition – 2003 First Edition

Color: Color: Light gray base; black tower, platform, and railing; nickel plated metal ladder. The silver tank has a Budweiser logo.

The tower has two metal signs attached to opposite sides of the tower that says "Budweiser" "PREFERRED EVERYWHERE". The warning light on the top blinks.

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.

© 2022, Donald W. Huovinen

Doug Wolff
Owner

Daily 12 - 8
Sat. 10 - 5
Sun. - Call

283 East County Line Road
Hatboro, PA 19040
www.JoesTrainStation.com

Tel: 215-322-5182
Fax: 215-322-5227

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

Tom Landis
Train Collector

3401 Davidsburg Road
Dover, PA 17315
717-668-9079
Tom.Landis16@gmail.com
PCA # 04-312
TCA # 78-12166

MY ONE SUCCESSFUL PLASTICVILLE KITBASH

ERIC MALGREN

Kitbashing has never really been my thing, but I have made a few tries over the years. I had a jar of gold model paint as a kid. My original fire station is gold. I tried painting my two American Flyer streamlined passenger cars with brushes. Pretty bad. Somewhere along the line I had an Independence Hall I tried to convert to a passenger terminal. The plan called for replacing the front door with double doors and adding three sets to the rear and one on one of the ends. I was not a very good razor blade. After breaking edges of the building and not getting clean cuts, I gave up in frustration and trashed it. I had better luck with a Revell bakery. I had read that if you altered the doors, it was suitable for S gauge. I did, and it served nicely on a small layout with my gold fire station and a few other structures.

For some reason, Plasticville was hard to find in Seattle during the late seventies and early eighties. Woolworth's had some one Christmas. I picked up several pieces then. When Betsy had her A Train House near 2nd and Virginia, I paid regular visits. I was able to pick up one of the small gas stations (used, of course). I had not seen one since my friend's dad took down his Flyer layout in 1960. At some point, she got a few new Plasticville items, one of which was the Union Station. I had often drooled over that particular building in the catalogs as a kid, but was never able to get my hands on one. So I bought it. Alas, when I got back to my apartment and opened the sealed box, I found that one end was missing. Betsy promptly replaced it saying she would return the defective one to her supplier.

Though there seems to be a lot of talk about K-Line kits missing parts, I am not aware that this sort of thing has been a topic of discussion with Plasticville. Perhaps my experience is unique because this was the third time I purchased a Plasticville kit that was not complete. The first was December 19, 1964. That date is easy to pin down. I was staying at my grandmother's for the weekend. It was my birthday. It was a Saturday. And, it snowed – a lot. There used to be a hobby shop on the southeast corner of Rainier and Genesee in Seattle's Columbia City neighborhood. My grandmother lived right off Rainier so with birthday money in hand I took the bus to the shop where I came back with three new buildings which I proceeded to set up on her living room floor. I cannot remember what building it was, but one of the three was missing an end. Rainier Avenue has always had great bus service and I



was back at the hobby shop in minutes in spite of the weather. Again, I do not remember what the defective building was, nor do I remember what I chose to replace it. However, the three buildings that I lined up on the floor that day consisted of a bank, a corner store and a five and dime. I still have all three.

The second incident of a Plasticville kit missing a part occurred some time in the early seventies. We were at a mall in North Vancouver, British Columbia. I am not even sure anymore if it was a toy store or a hobby shop, but there was one Plasticville kit, a 1617 Farm Buildings set. On checking the contents, I noticed that it was missing the end of the large shed. I bought it anyway. In my world at that time Plasticville kits were hard to come by and with all this kit had going for it (coop, corn crib, tractor, animals and so forth) I figured it was worth it.

Having received a replacement Union Station from Betsy, I decided to write Bachmann about my concerns with quality control. I wasn't complaining, the results of my three experiences had been satisfactory and I had been able to exchange the most recent defective kit for a complete one. So I was floored when weeks later I received a package with a letter of apology from the company and another Union Station.

It has been at least 35 years since that incident and the story gets a little fuzzy from there. At some point I decided these two would make a great "one". But I wanted to do more than just slap sides and ends together and make a bigger building, I wanted something with character, like two main entrances, but not on the same side or at opposite ends. I also wanted to take advantage of both bays. So I conceived of an L-shaped structure that was going to require some chopping. So, I chopped. Utility knife or x-acto? I can't remember. Why did I use the same end



pieces for the narrow side entrance off the main platform? I had to trim the pins of one to get it to work. Where did I get the patience to trim the facades to get the clean fits. The short wall overlaps the entrance wall on the long entrance side. This means I had to have used the roof I cut from foam core poster board to make sure that corner was square. In checking the measurements, the side bay and door had to be cut wider than the ends that came with the kits. That means I had to plan and cut the roof carefully to square the odd corner since I could not just use the two kit roofs for a pattern. Then there are the main platforms. I had to cut up two to do everything, but I still have a third and have since it first appeared on a layout in 1990 (I use it off the main platform behind the smaller platforms). Where did the third one come from? As I look at it now, three layouts, years in and out of storage, cats, chickens, goats – rats – it survives and I still enjoy it.

I just can't remember exactly how it got to be what it is.

So, for the brave and the bold, the only pieces of this puzzle that are not butchered are one front entrance, one rear entrance, the two entrance canopies and the two front steps. The other front had its left column trimmed to meet the short end piece and I found it necessary to notch the left façade to nestle with that end façade (probably with a fine file). There is 3/8" on either side of the short end window. 2" was required to line up with the back edge of the trimmed front piece.

I am not sure where my brain was when I did the two end pieces that connect with the unaltered front piece that serves as one end of the facility. I used the two ends with the notch in the base on both sides. So, on the side opposite the tracks the tabs locked in. However, the tabs of the

piece that was to attach to the track side had to be trimmed because the tabs did not line up. Since the trackside end piece had to be flush with the main back wall the tabs of the end piece had to be cut off as well. This came out at about 3 21/32". The other end piece was cut to match. The end bay was cut at 9/32" to the left of the bay and 1 3/4" to the right. The overall length is 4 13/32". The extra 1/32' on these 3 pieces can probably be ignored. They likely had to do with how I dragged the cutting tool down the ruler.

The two rear platform canopies and the platforms took a real hit. One canopy had its ramp wrap cut off. This piece was glued as an extension to the other end. The other rear canopy was trimmed to 4 3/16" in a way that the bay tab could still slide into place. I notched the overhang on the track end in hopes of getting it flush with the edge of the main canopy. I cut the ramp off the end of one platform and turned it to the tracks. It needed to be trimmed to line up with the main platform and notched to wrap around the base of the front piece column. I also cut the steps of the other end. I cut the canopy slot portion from the 2nd platform. The left end is 1 3/16 inches from the hole for the bay tab. The overall length is 4 1/2". Another piece was cut to serve as filler on the open end. I then cut another piece 1 3/16" and glued it to the end of the main platform. This made it possible for me to attach the steps to the end outside the new side door. Because there was a gap between the new platform and the end piece that now served as a trackside wall, I took a piece of foam board and trimmed it so that it would fill the gap.



One additional piece was required. A piece of upper corner façade was required for the connection between the street facing end piece and the short end piece that connects to the long side front. This came from one of the pillars cut from the short bay side. Oh yes, it was also necessary to do a little work on the facade and column where the short side piece meets the left end of long side front.

I have no pictures of the station as it made its first appearance on a layout around 1990. Layout 2 shows it as it was during in the early stages of that setup. I later added streets and sidewalks. This layout was in our detached garage. One day one of our children failed to secure the

Solid White Standing Cow

\$10 + S&H

Buy two, get free shipping!

Contact:

mattharvazinski@gmail.com



door. I walked in to discover one of our goats standing in the middle of the layout. How it got on and off without damaging anything remains a mystery.

Layout 3 was never really completed – for obvious reasons. At night, it shared the basement with our four cats. As soon as it went up, they claimed it as theirs. They had no qualms about “rearranging” things to suit their own wants and desires. Most of my pictures show something or other amiss.



PAINTED PLASTICVILLE

DONALD W. HUOVINEN



Over the past 75 years, countless Plasticville pieces have been customized by their owners with a splash of paint. And often further customized with added signage. Bachmann often painted the lettering on some of their buildings in typically red, but sometimes black or white. And of course the clocks on the Union Station and Town Hall were highlighted in red. It is speculated that the paint was simply applied with a roller.

Bachmann did include paints (and painting instructions) for the Citizens/People as well as the Roadside Stand. That fact that painting these was labor intensive is borne out by the many boxes this writer has seen with partially painted items but still plenty of paint left on the palette. Bachmann painting these items would have been cost prohibitive.

But how many Plasticville items were painted by Bachmann, not counting the aforementioned lettering and details?

Bachmann’s wish to keep costs down precluded them from painting most of their items but they did paint a few.

Barnyard animals: The white cows, both standing and sitting, could have black or caramel paint applied in an irregular pattern. The early horses could have their hooves painted gray.

Covered Bridge: The early version of this bridge has the roadway painted tan.

Frosty Bar: When the current version of the Frosty Bar, 45606, was first made in China all of the pieces were molded in vanilla and the roof and floor then painted silver. This was soon corrected and subsequent pieces were molded in their proper colors.

Dairy Barn: A special run of 45932 Dairy Barn was made for the Lionel Collectors Club of America 1994 Convention held in Chattanooga, TN. The roof was painted black with “SEE ROCK CITY” printed on the roof in white. A version of 45602 Dairy Barn was specially made for PCA’s 10th Anniversary. The barn was molded with blue walls and gray trim but had the PCA logo printed on the roof in blue.

Are there any other pieces that were painted?



K-LINE KRONICLES: K-LINE #K-103 STEAM WHISTLE STATION



ED BERG



One of the things we collector's miss most about K-Line was their innovation. It wasn't too long after acquiring the old Marx tooling and subsequently issuing the kits under their own label, that they began to experiment with different colors, alterations, and additions to their kits. One of those additions was adding a steam whistle mechanism to the old Marxville passenger station. Why didn't Marx do it? After all, they had the whistle mechanism inserted into their tin-litho "GIRARD"

ish yellows and reds anymore - the tan and brown of this new offering was easier on the eyes. While it also included the control button for the whistle, unlike the Marxville series of buildings, the K-Line Steam Whistle Station had no figures or station platform accessories. The non-whistle equipped #K-4031 Suburban Station did in fact have the whole range of station accessories.



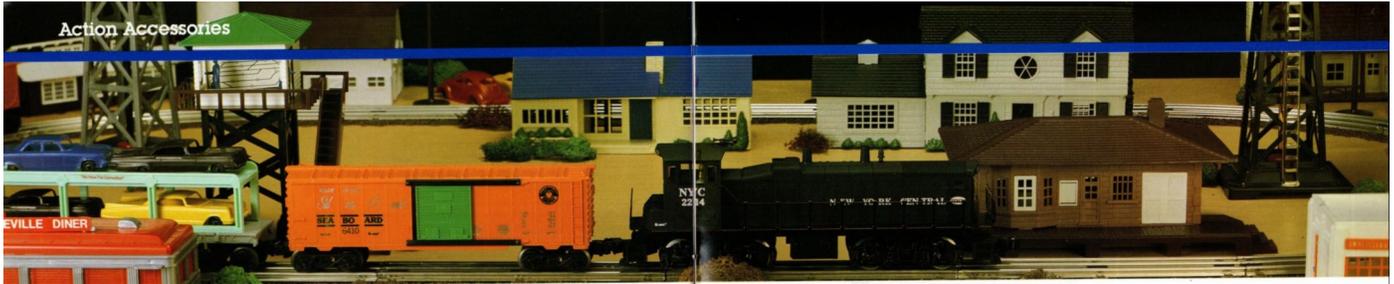
Ed "ICE" Berg
Las Vegas, NV

station, but not in the Marxville plastic kit. I can only guess that it was Marx's way of providing a budget priced product and adding the whistle would have made them go beyond the price point they considered 'budget'.

In 1988 K-Line introduced all new designs in their *Marketplace* series. The tired old Marx stores were finally given refreshing new business facades using all new tooling. While the castings for the sides, rear wall, and roofs remained the same, the new facades gave the train layout builder more options. In-line with the new, innovation approach for 1988, the station not only got itself a whistle, but also came in realistic, down-to-earth, colors – no gar-



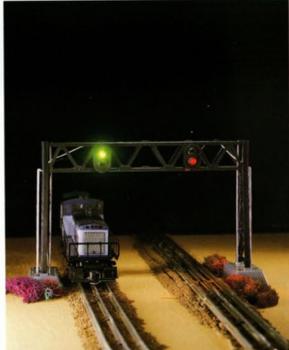
Action Accessories



K-103 Steam Whistle Station



K-131 Bubbling Water Tower



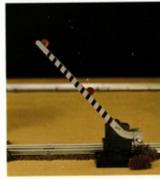
K-120 Double Track Signal Bridge



K-122 Diesel Fueling Station



K-132 Revolving Beacon



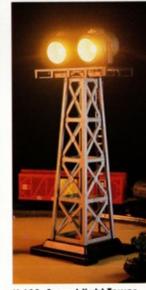
K-123 Automatic Crossing Gate



K-124 Operating Barrel Loader



K-121 Switchman's Tower



K-133 Searchlight Tower

Create drama and excitement with these operating accessories. Action and fun for your layout.

- K-103 Steam Whistle Station**
At the push of a button, a beautifully reproduced steam whistle sound is heard.
- K-120 Double Track Signal Bridge**
This "Main Line" signal spans two tracks (even curved). Two target lights change from red to green as the train passes underneath. Signal bridge may be wired for use as a "block" signal to halt following train automatically.
- K-121 Switchman's Tower**
As the train approaches this brightly illuminated tower, one man moves to the control panel and the other moves onto the deck to observe - all automatically. When the train passes they return to their original positions.
- K-122 Diesel Fueling Station**
At the press of a button, man with hose approaches track to fuel the diesel engine. Other man moves around trackside shanty. Release button and they return to their original positions.
- K-123 Automatic Crossing Gate**
Gate lowers automatically to warn of approaching train. Gate rises up to all clear position as train moves on.
- K-124 Operating Barrel Loader**
The barrel loader can be placed anywhere on the layout. A good place is on a rail siding so that other trains may still operate while barrel loader is working. Barrels are placed onto loader chute manually. At the push of a button, the fork lift moves from the base of the chute, dropping a barrel into the waiting gondola. Set includes depot and barrels.
- K-131 Bubbling Water Tower**
Light illuminates tube and tower. Resulting heat causes liquid to bubble.
- K-132 Revolving Beacon**
Head from bulb causes beacon to rotate slowly, casting red and green shadows over your layout.
- K-133 Searchlight Tower**
These high intensity lamps really light up your train yard.

K-LINE® STEAM WHISTLE STATION

• DURABLE
 • DETAILED
 • REALISTIC

AT THE PUSH OF A BUTTON, A BEAUTIFULLY REPRODUCED STEAM WHISTLE SOUND IS HEARD.



HOBBY HAVEN

2575 86TH STREET
 URBANDALE, IOWA 50322
 (515) 276-8785
 (515) 252-0112 FAX
 (800) 697-1213 OUT OF TOWN
<http://www.hobbyhaven.com>

Your Ad Here

Contact: secretary@plasticvilleusa.org

K-LINE BUBBLING WATER TOWERS



DONALD W. HUOVINEN

My original article about header bags was published in Volume 17, Number 1, February 2018 and was amended by a follow up article in Volume 17, Number 3, August 2018. I believed I had covered every type of header bag K-Line used. Such was not the case.

Late in its existence, probably 2004 at the earliest, K-Line used yet another header bag. I am calling this Header Bag 6.

Header Bag 6

Size of Header Bag Label (One Side): 2 1/4" x 3"

Front:

- Yellow/Black background
- K-Line "swoosh" logo in lower left corner
- Item description centered



Rear

- Black background
- Item description in upper left corner
- Bar code centered

Item Packaged: K742-X002 BAG OF ICE

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.

© 2022, Donald W. Huovinen



RARE LIONEL WANTED

- Collections—Large & Small
- Mint Items
- Type 3 Box Cars: SF, GN, NYC, WP
- Rare Freight cars
- High Grade Original Boxes

Post War Lionel

- Dozers & Scrapers—In Original Boxes
- Master Carton Engines
- Dealer Items

Separate Sale Lionel

- 9202 Santa Fe Orange
- Factory-Produced Odd-Color Boxcars
- Modern Era Collections

Lionel MPC Rare & Errors

Confidential Assessments & Purchases

Bill Sivley TCA #80-15566

Email: mrwls911@yahoo.com

Phone: 281-804-3629

THE YORK REPORT

ANONYMOUS

There were two meetings hosted by the Plasticville Collectors Association at the October York Train meet. The 11:00 AM meeting was attended by sixteen people, including this writer. The 5:30 PM meeting was attended by a mere five people, again with this writer included.

Some interesting items were presented at the morning meeting:

Sue Shaw presented a very well preserved number V-10 Vehicle Assortment. Not only were the assorted vehicles in excellent shape but the box was one of the best this writer has seen in quite some time.

Jim Farace presented two Lionel Plasticville pieces. His first piece was the 951 Figure set which was actually a farm implement set. This was one of the earliest sets, introduced by Lionel in 1958. The set contained a pickup truck, tractor, jeep, disk, plow, hay wagon, horses, cows, and of all things a footbridge.

He also presented the 981 Freight Yard set. This set included a switch tower, freight platform, three telephone poles, three pieces baggage handling equipment, and two railroad people. It was introduced by Lionel in 1960.

John Niehaus had quite a few things to present. He started off by showing a production #45614 Town Hall box with an additional label on the front of the box. He explained that the label was a greeting and the Town Hall a gift to the delegates of the 2000 Republican National Convention that year in Philadelphia. He passed around the box as well as an original press release that Bachmann included with each gift.

Those in attendance received an original surplus copy of the label that he had acquired. He noted that there was a small white label in the lower left corner of the label noting that it was a leftover as well as the handwritten letters BII in red in the lower right corner. The BII was added by Bachmann before sending them to him to dispose of as he wished.

He also gave every attendee a second gift of an oversize *Welcome to Plasticville* billboard insert. He explained and demonstrated that it would fit nicely and present well in a Lionel billboard frame.

He also passed around a 2022 Bachmann Trains New Releases catalog while noting that Bachmann intends to release Plasticville 75th Anniversary pieces. The catalog shows four items each for both HO and O gauge. He also

noted that it is still undetermined in what colors the pieces will be molded. He received a somewhat noncommittal response that they will not be molded in previous colors upon contacting Bachmann.

Small but not often found in an Independence Hall box is a two color insert that suggests ways to display the item. The back of the flyer contains a short history of Independence Hall. He passed the only copy he has seen around for those in attendance to view.

The last piece that he presented was an unused *Tommy and Tess Take a Train Trip* coloring book. These were included in an HO Make N Play set in 1959.

A discussion was held related to the HO pieces produced by Beemak Plastics of Los Angeles, California. It was noted that Beemak Plastics is still in business. Questions regarding very early packaging came up as the packaging changed from Beemak Matchbox Village to just Beemak Village. It was speculated by one attendee that there was the possibility of Lesney, the English manufacturer of Matchbox toys, objected to the use of the word Matchbox especially when the Matchbox Village pieces were packaged in a matchbox-like container.

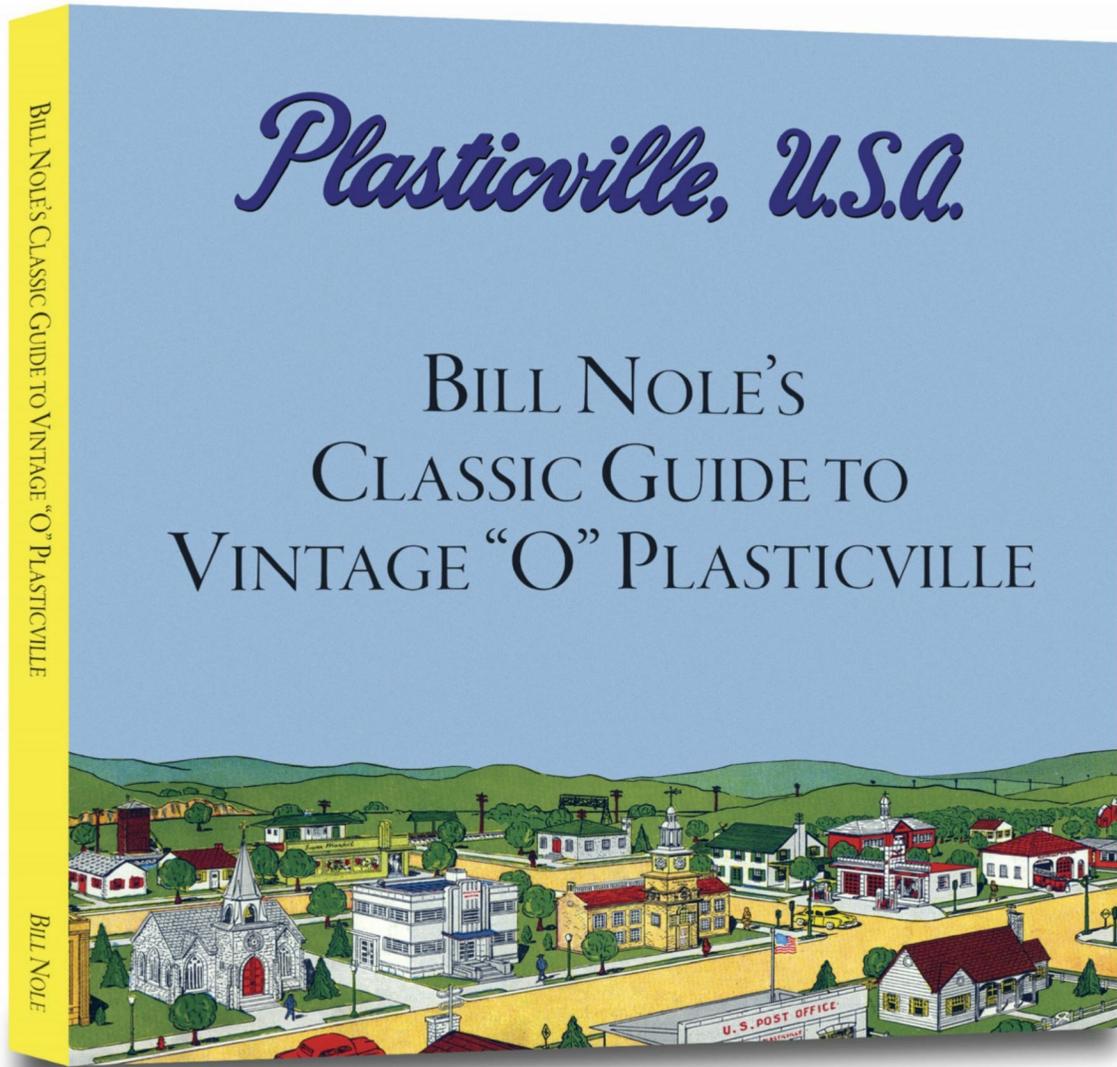
Sadly the five evening meeting attendees had nothing to present.

Door prizes were awarded at both meetings consisting of one Lionel billboard frame including the *Welcome to Plasticville* insert as well as two bagged Plasticville items.



Have you ever come across a dealer box marked "MT-2"?
Contact: villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO PLASTICVILLE



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 50th anniversary releases, King Distributing Collector Series, Make'N'Play, Lionel Plasticville, and much more. This new edition contains current values plus updates from previous editions. Softcover, 204 pages, color. Order today!

VISIT PLASTICVILLEGUIDE.COM TO ORDER

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

I wonder if the topic has been discussed on this page before, but I wonder being that the Marx made plastic buildings were so very similar in design to Plasticville if there were ever any challenges known in court to some sort of infringement on design or patents from Bachman?

I purchased a Marx plastic depot today at a train show and never realized till I compared it to my Plasticville depot just how close it looks.

Any knowledge, thoughts or ideas?

Bachmann patented two designs used to assemble their buildings. Those were different than the design used by Marx. It is doubtful that there were any litigation due to the vastly different assembly methods. Any litigation regarding the copying of a building was probably not even considered because of the similarities between various prototype suburban stations, barns, or buildings.

Initially posted on the Plasticville - The Sister Group Of American Flyer Trains Facebook page. Used with permission.

SOLID WHITE COWS

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

Do you have a solid white cow in your farm? The answer may surprise you. A solid white cow, either sitting or standing is a very hard item to find. Typically you will find cows with either brown spots or black spots. The spots are painted on and if you remove them you still typically see a trace or slight darkening where the spot was. The authentic solid white cow does not show this.

Solid white cows can be found in two shades of white. An ivory color and white. The photos on the right show the ivory colored cows on the left and white cows on the right.

My unofficial analysis based simply on the cows I have come across make the white cows more common and the ivory colored cows harder to find. I have also come across a number of white cows with a light grey hue.

The solid white sitting cow is harder to find than the solid white standing cow, again by unofficial analysis. The solid white is also harder to find than the dark brown cow which can be found in the early BY-4 sets.



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

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	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	

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, 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)

STORY TOWN 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

BACK IN THE BOX / A CONTINUING SERIES ON REPACKING PLASTICVILLE

SM-7 Large Supermarket

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

This is another easy one that sometimes causes trouble due to the slid-in marquee.

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

Photo 1: Place the slide-in marquee piece into the lower left hand corner of the box with the printing up.



Photo 2: Place the back wall face down into the upper right hand corner of the box.



Photo 3: Place the side wall sections face up on top of the back wall and inside the lugs on the back wall with their bottoms against the back of the box.



Photo 4: Place the front wall in face up in the upper right hand corner of the box.



Photo 5: Place the roof face up on top of the front wall.



The photos with this article are my step by step process to get it "back in the box". I would like to hear from anyone who has other methods for getting this piece, or any others, "back in the box".



LIONEL TRAINS

MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ

STEAM SETS

DIESEL SETS



Family owned and
operated since 1974

The Train Station
12 Romaine Road
Mountain Lakes NJ 07046
Phone 973-263-1979
www.Train-Station.com

Direct dealer and
Authorized Lionel
Service Station

Sign up for our weekly e-mail at info@train-station.com for sales, promotions, Lionel news, & Plasticville too!
Huge inventory of vintage and modern Lionel and MTH in stock. We ship daily!
Find us at York every April & October in the **ORANGE** Hall.
David Shaw TCA # 87-25439 Sue Shaw PCA# 14-883

PLASTICVILLE

ORIGINAL PARTS

Large, Small, Solid Color and Marbled Pieces

weathervanes, lights, chimneys, smokestacks, antennas, furniture and more

Assembly instructions, play guides, box inserts

Marx, Littletown, Skyline, K-Line also available

Send your want list to:

johnln@netins.net

or mail to:

Pville Parts

601 SE Second St

Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207

Member:

Plasticville Collectors Association

Train Collectors Association

Lionel Collectors Club of America

GREENBERG'S 2023 POCKET PRICE GUIDES

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

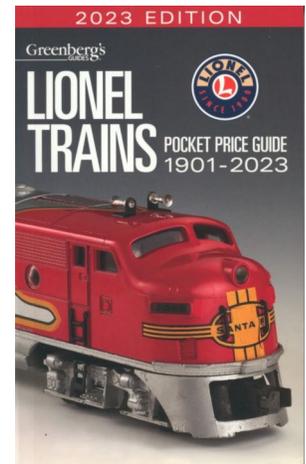
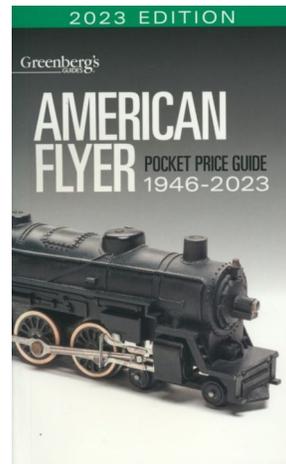
I recently received the 2023 editions of both the Lionel and the American Flyer Greenberg's Pocket price guides. Both guides are of a size again that it would take an oversized pocket in which to carry either of them. They are approximately 5 x 8 inches. The Lionel guide is approximately 3/4 inches thick while the Flyer guide is approximately 5/16 inches thick. The Lionel guide is 463 pages. The Flyer guide is 159 pages of which the last seven are blank with the word NOTES at the top of each page.

I started comparing the values listed for the ten Lionel and the five Flyer pieces that I have tracked for over fifteen years. I was shocked at what I found! Nearly every piece either lost value or stayed the same as last year! Only three values went up while seven values decreased leaving the remaining twenty at either their 2021 or 2022 values.

Prewar and modern Lionel values all remain the same as in last year's guides. All of the Lionel postwar pieces lost value except for the Santa Fe 2343C, type B, B unit and the 2360 green GG1. The B unit gained \$1 in Good condition and \$8 in Excellent condition. The 2360 gained value in Excellent condition rising from \$761 to \$786 but losing \$7 in good condition.

The American Flyer values were a wash. The values for the five pieces that I track remained the same as found in the 2021 guide.

Editors Note: I compared about 100 prices in the American Flyer guide between 2021 and 2023. I found only a single \$2 difference on one item. The Introduction and S-Gauge Marketplace sections are identical in the two books. This is disappointing to say the least considering the book is now on a two year cycle.



The 2023 guides are available from Kalmbach Books, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI, 53186. They are listed on their website: <http://www.kalmbachstore.com>. Their U.S. toll free number is 800-533-6644 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The phone number if you are calling from Canada or outside the U.S. is 262-796-8776 Ext. 421. The price for the Lionel guide is \$22.99. The price for the American Flyer guide is listed at \$15.99

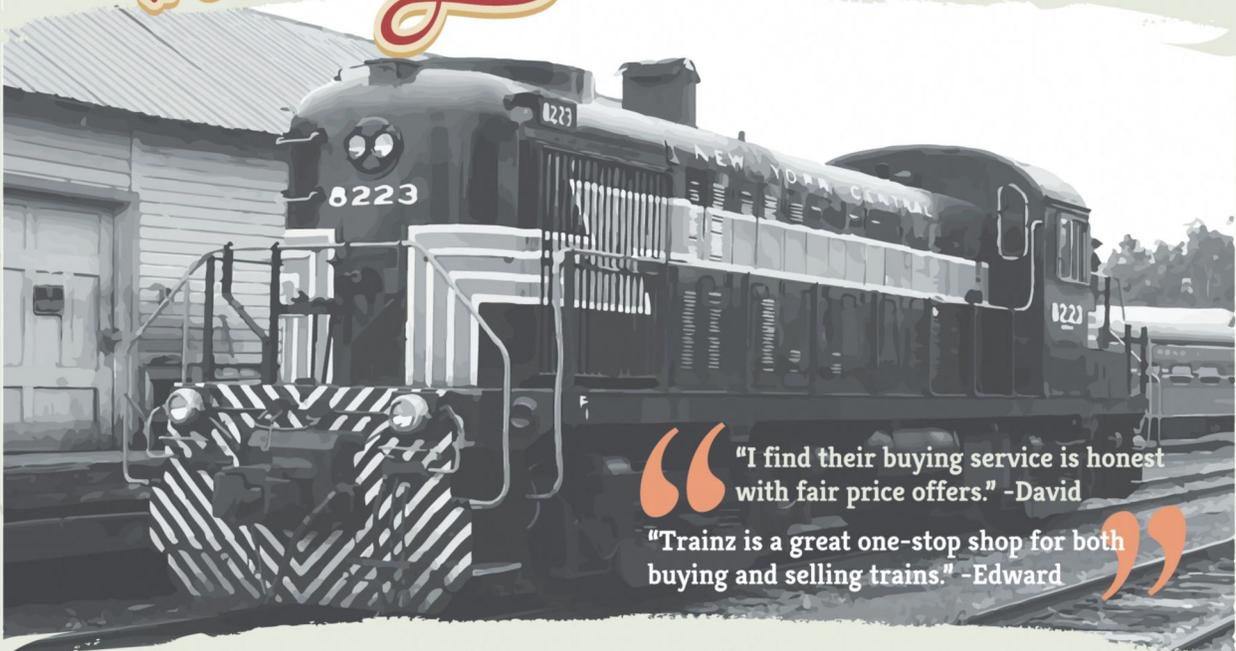
The Lionel guide is listed on Amazon from around \$18 to the publisher's list price. The Flyer guide is listed for just about the publisher's list price.

Plasticville Collectors Association Anniversary Pieces

		
5th Anniversary Only 1 left! 336 total pieces made \$85 plus shipping	10th Anniversary 240 total pieces made \$100 plus shipping	20th Anniversary 264 total pieces made \$65 plus shipping

Items are from the Plasticville Collectors Association Archives
Proceeds will be used to support the continuation of the Plasticville Collectors Association website at <http://plasticvilleusa.org>
Quantities are limited
All buildings are in their factory sealed packages
Contact: secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail to PCA, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, Iowa 50021 to arrange purchase and shipping

I've been selling my trains to
Trainz for over a decade!"



"I find their buying service is honest with fair price offers." -David
"Trainz is a great one-stop shop for both buying and selling trains." -Edward

It's taken you decades to build the perfect collection full of rare gems. You've brought model railroading to perfection and your empire is the envy of all who see it.

Nothing is permanent though, not even the gleaming treasure in your basement, and it's time to downsize to the rarest of the rare and let the rest move on to another collector.

With over 45 years of experience, **Trainz** makes it easy to sell your collection. Save yourself the time and frustration of photographing, listing, and shipping your trains piece by piece by letting **Trainz** handle it

for you. Don't want to pack up your collection and mail it in? We'll come to you. Don't trust your living history with just anyone.

Chief Engineer Scott Griggs has been collecting since 1975, and knows how important our shared hobby is. **Trainz** has worked with thousands of collectors over the years and we'll do our best to help shepherd your collection to new owners.

Join David, Edward, and thousands of others by asking **Trainz** to help sell your collection.

TRAINZ

Chief Engineer Scott Griggs
www.trainz.com/pca | sellyourtrains@trainz.com | (866) 285-5840



THE PCA CORNER STORE



ITEMS FOR SALE BY THE PCA

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

Personalized address labels

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels are available from the PCA. The labels 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.

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



PRODUCT REVIEW

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

Murder & Mayhem on the Texas Rails, Jeff Campbell, 128 pages, softcover, 6×9 format, \$21.99. Published by The History Press, an imprint of Arcadia Publishing INC. Black and white photos throughout.

The book begins with two pages with the title, *About the Interurban Railways*. It includes a map of the Texas Electric Railway System that ran for 40 years between 1940 and 1948. It went north from Dallas, Texas to Dennison and South to Waco with a few feeder lines both east and west. The stories in the book are all related to that railway system. The usual acknowledgements page and three pages of introduction, complete with photos, follows. Chapter 1 carries the title, *A Few Definitions*. I found this quite nice as there are times when terms can be confusing. The author includes two definitions for the word, trolley. The meaning of that word seems to be debated at times. The stories in this book range from a murder for insurance money, robberies on trolleys, and the usual railway mishaps.

This is the second book based on murder and mayhem on the rails that I have read. It was with a bit of apprehension that I even opened this one. The first one seemed to just repeat verbatim what the author had found in old newspapers. There was minimal additional research. The

Central Wyoming Railroads, Con Trumbull, 126 pages, softcover, \$23.99. Published by Arcadia Publishing as part of their Images of Rail series. Heavily captioned black and white photos throughout.

This another in a very long series of railroad books by Arcadia Publishing. This book, as the title notes illustrates the railroads both early and current in Central Wyoming.

As with most books this one starts with acknowledgments and an introduction. They are followed by seven chapters, a bibliography, and an "about the author" page.

The first chapter has a few photos of trains of a different nature, wagon trains. One has to realize that even in the early 1900's there were means of transportation other than the train. One photo in chapter one prominently shows a horse standing at the Casper, Wyoming depot.

Casper, Wyoming is the subject of chapter two with vintage steam as well as early diesel photos. One interesting photo in this chapter shows a twin engine airplane dropping supplies to a train stranded in a snowdrift.

What's a book on trains without a chapter on wrecks. This book devotes a dozen pages to wrecks not only of the

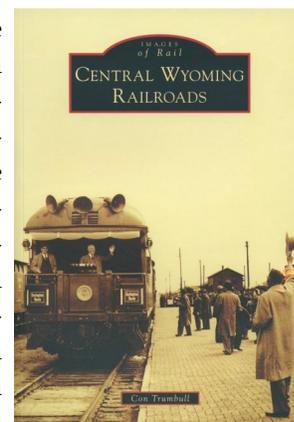
stories in this book are well researched. The author had the assistance of the Interurban Railway Museum located in Plano, Texas. The stories in this book are all written as stories, not rehashes of newspaper clippings. I recommend this book and its' over thirty well researched and written stories.



Murder & Mayhem on the Texas Rails is available from Arcadia Publishing at <https://arcadiapublishing.com>. Click on the magnifying glass near the top of the home page, type in the book name, and click on the magnifying glass again to be directed to the book. You will need to type in the entire book title unless you have the desire to scroll through quite a few books with titles beginning with murder and mayhem.

It is listed on Barnes and Noble's website as well as on Amazon at the publisher's list price for a softcover book as well as a slightly higher price for a hardcover edition. I believe that the hardcover edition is a print on demand item as a hardcover edition is not listed on Arcadia's website.

steam era but even to the more contemporary Burlington Northern railroad. Photos related to oil refineries and their dependence on railroads are covered in chapter four. Wyoming is still fairly sparsely populated and one of the photos in chapter five brings that into focus. The photo is of the station in Natrona. It is an old wooden boxcar set off the tracks on blocks. A few special trains are noted in chapter six including a visit by the Pioneer Zephyr. There are photos of Truman speechifying from the back platform of the presidential car as well as photos of the Barnum & Bailey circus train.



This is one of the first books in this series that I have read that contained a modern era section. I always learn something by reading and this chapter had a very interesting photo. It was of an empty unit coal train. What I learned was that the train is filled "on the fly"! The train proceeds

through what looks like a grain silo where each car is filled with 100 tons of coal without the train stopping. If that isn't good enough, the train is on a reversing loop so that once the last car is filled it is on its way back to its next destination.

I always enjoy reading these Images of Rail books and this one is no exception.

The Iron Road in the Prairie State, The Story of Illinois Railroading, Simon Cordery, 216 pages, hardcover, 8¾ × 11¼ format, \$60.00. Published by Indiana University Press. Black & White photos and maps throughout.

As with most books, this one begins with an approximately four page preface. This preface is a bit unique as it is preceded by a nearly full page photo as well as another photo halfway through the preface. The second photo is that of a fish car, a car use to transport live fish. It seems to be a converted platform type observation car. The preface is followed by the usual acknowledgments. The next section is nearly three pages of abbreviations of railroads and other railroad entities such as the ORC (Order of Railroad Conductors) and the AAR (Association of American Railroads). I found the abbreviations to be a nice addition to the introductory sections of this book.

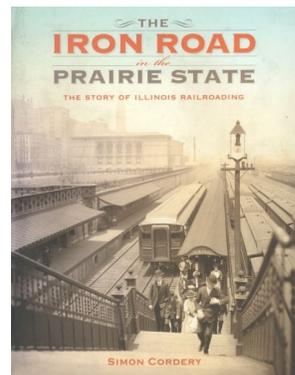
The development of railroads in Illinois, as with many other areas, got off with many "fits and starts". The first two chapters out of a total of eighteen do an excellent job of describing some of the issues the early railroads faced. There are numerous references to railroads of which I was unaware with some never actually getting any further than a name and maybe a charter.

The next seven chapters explain why railroads were needed - think rich Illinois farmland and how to efficiently transport the crops produced on them- how they were financed, the Civil war, labor issues, and the onrush of Federal regulations.

Chapters nine and ten touch on the Panic of '73 and how it dried up funds the railroads needed for basic operation. One method for getting around traditional financing was income bonds. Some railroads issued debenture bonds, a British invention. Bridges were a big thing for Illinois as it is bounded on all sides by water as well as the Illinois River effectively bisecting it from north to south. As is well known the first bridge over the Mississippi River was at Rock Island, Illinois. These chapters also discuss the huge amount of overbuilding that occurred during this time and the consolidation of many small railroads due to that fact.

Central Wyoming Railroads is available directly from www.arcadiapublishing.com. Barnes and Noble's offers it in paperback at the publisher's price of \$23.99. I found it on Amazon in paperback for as low as \$16.52. Hamiltonbook.com offers it for \$19.95.

Chapter eleven bears the title *Excursions and Interurbans*" but maybe should have had the word *Wrecks* added to its title as it does touch on probably the most well known train wreck in Illinois. It also briefly touches on the various short lived inter-urban services. The next three chapters discuss coal production in Illinois and the drive by many railroads to acquire the transportation of it, more Federal regulation, WWI and the 20's. The remaining four chapters cover the depression, postwar challenges, railroad consolidation, and the fact that we still have railroads.



The eighteen chapters are followed by a notes section, a bibliography, and an index section. Without counting I believe that between the previously mentioned abbreviations and the index that one could research over 100 railroads.

I always find one or two tidbits of knowledge when reading almost any book. I found this one in this book. Mendota is a city in North Central Illinois. The city's name is derived from a Lakota Indian word meaning "junction of two trails". This is quite appropriate for the city since there was a nearby railroad junction of the Illinois Central and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad per the author.

I found this to be a quite interesting and well researched volume. I recommend it to anyone with an interest in Illinois railroad history.

The Iron Road in the Prairie State is available from Indiana University Press at <https://iupress.org/9780253019066/the-iron-road-in-the-prairie-state>. Along with the University listing there are four links to additional sellers. The Amazon link offers the book for \$40.73 as well as \$13.49 for a Kindle version. Bookshop.org offers it for \$55.20. The other two links offer it at the publisher's price.

Plasticville®

USA

BACHMANN®



Recreating America in Miniature for 75 Years...

Since 1947 Bachmann's Plasticville® series has been a leader in affordable, easy-to-assemble structure kits for model railroads and miniature dioramas. To this day, many buildings and accessories continue to be produced from their original molds - a testament to their quality and durability. From the iconic red barn and associated farm buildings to classic mid-century churches, diners, residential, and commercial structures, Bachmann's Plasticville® line continues to provide everything you need to create a quintessentially American scene. Whether you're new in town or an established civic leader, you can be sure of a warm welcome in Plasticville® - a community limited only by your imagination!



DINER
Item No. 45605
MSRP: \$33.00



CAPE COD HOUSES
Item No. 45608
MSRP: \$33.00

0 Scale Favorites



GREENHOUSE with FLOWERS
Item No. 45615
MSRP: \$36.00



MOTEL
Item No. 45616
MSRP: \$33.00

A great selection of structures is also available in HO and N Scale



Bachmann Industries, Inc.; 1400 East Erie Avenue; Philadelphia, PA 19124 USA • www.bachmanntrains.com