



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

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Number 1

MAIL LADY

JIM BENNETT

Back in the late 1980's I had a desire to set up a scene on my platform with a mail truck and a mail LADY (as opposed to a mailman). I finally found a Tootsie Toy mail truck but there was no mail lady to be found. So I made my own.

Using an X-Acto razor saw I took the upper torso from the K-Line lady with child. Then I cut off her hat. I took the hat off of the K-Line gas station attendant and used the lower torso from the Plasticville milkman. I also cut off the milkman's milk crate to use as the mail bag.

I filled in the indentations of the milk bottles with plastic putty. Then I cut a strip of clear plastic from a battery blister pack to use as the mail bag strap. I glued everything together, painted it, and I had my mail lady.

I made this back in the late 1980's and have been utilizing it on my Christmas platforms ever since. It's held up exceptionally well.



Cut the hat and upper torso from the women with child. Cut the milk crate and lower torso from the milkman. Cut the hat from the station attendant.



The Villager

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Welcome to our first (and late) issue of 2023. The blame falls on me for the tardiness of this issue, all of our contributors were ready with plenty of time. Better late than never, I think you will enjoy the content that our contributors put together for this issue.

We had a very good showing at the York meeting in April, please stop by if you are a York attendee. You can read more about the meeting on page 18. For the fall meeting, I am thinking about suggesting that people might bring spare parts or extra items they are looking to sell or trade. It might be an easy way to exchange parts. If you have ideas let me know what you think and we will write up some type of announcement or call for action in the summer edition. The Bachmann ad gives us a hint at what the

75th-anniversary buildings will look like. Have you ordered yours yet?

While this issue is packed full of content, the next one might not be! If you have something to share please send it my way, if it is only a partial story we can work together to finish it off.

Enjoy the issue.

Matt Harvazinski, *The Villager* Editor

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

LITTLETOWN SCHOOL LOOK-ALIKE

JOHN NIEHAUS



Sometimes things are right in front of you and you don't see it. I have driven past this building on my way to the York fairgrounds many times. It is across

the street from the Carlisle fairgrounds entrance. It isn't a perfect match to the Littletown School House but sure looks close. Maybe it was a schoolhouse in the past.

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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)
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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

NOT MY FIND

ERIC MALGREN

May 14, 2021 – One of our daughters had a desire to move from Tacoma, WA, where we were staying because of aged parents, back to our home in Baraboo, WI. Having secured a transfer with the company she was working for, we loaded her and some of our personal stuff in a rental truck and made the trip east. It was a Friday. We had unloaded the morning before and I was alone in the house trying to make some order out of chaos. My wife was off visiting her favorite hair dresser and the two girls, who knew this was the weekend of the annual Lions Club yard sale at the Sauk County Fair Grounds, were out to be there when it opened.

Shortly after they left one of my daughters called to report that she had found some plastic train buildings consisting of a bunch of houses, a couple of stores, a school, and a bag of parts. Some of them said “Plasticville”. She was wondering if I was interested. I asked her to send me some pictures so I could get an idea what she was talking about. Soon I was looking at pictures of houses, a hardware store, a post office, a bag of Marx accessories, and a bag of I had no idea what. She said she was not sure how much they were because some bags had both \$1.00 and \$5.00 stickers on them. She asked about the cost and learned all were a dollar, except the school, which was \$2.00. I had her offer a dollar for the school, but the seller turned it down. Since I already have two schools and this one was glued together, I had her leave it. Everything else she brought home.



We were too busy at the time for me to examine the purchase closely. There were three Cape Cods, one each red, blue, and brown. The blue house was missing a door, but I figured I could come up with a door easily enough even if it did not match. There were also three ranch houses, white with blue, blue with grey, and salmon with brown. All the pieces appeared to be there. There was also a New England ranch house and a colonial mansion. Both were missing antennas but nothing else. The post office had its flag pole, lights, and window inserts. The hardware store was the black front version. The one present window insert was creased. The bag of accessories included among other things a pair of Marx newsstands, one with roof and back and one without. There was table with canopy and chair and a slide. A couple of Plasticville figures were also visible. The mystery bag appeared to be parts from an unidentifiable HO warehouse kit. There were two long sides with grooves on the backside for knocking out windows and doors and two roof pieces. No ends were present nor were and doors and windows. The other pieces, still on there spruces were meaningless without the absent instructions – assuming they had anything to do with the original kit. Having made my basic inventory everything went into a box on a basement shelf to await our eventual return.



And we did return, in December of 2021. However, because I did not have time to deal with my daughter's find it was not until October of 2022 that I finally pulled them out and took a good look. Most of the bags did indeed have two price stickers, one for \$5.00 and one for \$1.00. Being a runner and not a collector, I'm not sure I would have paid \$5.00 for any of them. I have several Cape Cods, the post office and the hardware store. I wanted a couple more Cape Cods for a someday idea I had but not at any price. The other houses in the collection I had as a kid and have never had an interest in replacing them. My original hardware was the tan version, so the black storefront had some appeal. Since it was missing inserts, I would have likely offered less than the \$5.00 figure. I know nothing about the conditions under which the seller tried to get \$5.00 each for these pieces. A yard sale? A



swap meet? Whatever, by the time my daughter found them, he had chosen to lower his expectations.

I already knew the blue Cape Cod was missing a door. I had one. The hardware store was missing inserts. I have scanned copies on my computer. I started opening bags and looking closer. The infamous glue residue was pretty bad on the red Cape Cod. Both the hardware and the post office have indentations along the back edge of the roof in almost the same spot like they had been stored on end with something pressing down on them at that point. Noticeable, but not too distracting. The New England ranch house is the pain to put and keep together that I remember it being as a kid. The lightweight rear roof piece on this one is warped and will need help staying in place.



Finally, the blue ranch turned out to have two garage sides. Did it come that way originally? Or, was it pieced together? Was it part of a personal train set? Was he an operator? A collector? A dealer? What brought him to this organization's yard sale? It's not exactly a draw for the toy train enthusiast. Alas, so many questions, no answers, and no way to get any. I have no idea who the seller was or what he even looked like. My daughter's pictures did not include one with him in it. As for the missing piece, by waiting so long to take a close look at the collection, I may have missed my best opportunity to grab a replacement. The PCA had a big table at the Mad City Train Show in February 2022. They had a big tub of parts I had intended to look through. I didn't, not that it would have mattered. At the time I did not know I needed a ranch house end.



This was not my find, it was my daughter's. And, she continues to be on the lookout for things I might be interested in. I was not able to make this year's Mad City Show because my wife and I are RVing as volunteers at Bible camps down south. So she went on her own, armed with a short list of things I might be interested in (including a picture of the missing ranch house side). She sent back a single picture showing a suburban station, a small supermarket, and a station platform. With everything currently boxed away, I passed.



As for the find from May of 2021, I'm an opportunist working with a limited budget so I feel it was \$12 well spent. I know what I am going to do with the hardware/pharmacy and the post office. I know what I want to do with the Cape Cods. The miscellaneous accessories will all find a place somewhere. The other houses, who knows? If I do use them, barring the discovery of the missing piece, the blue ranch house can always be placed in such a way that the missing piece is hidden from view. As for the bag of house kit pieces, I have no clue. But I suspect I will come up with something eventually.

Happy Hunting All.

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K-LINE AIRPORTS



DONALD W. HUOVINEN

Of all the 13 plastic buildings derived from the Marx molds that K-Line offered, the airport is one of those with very few variations: only three. Only the Police Station has fewer variations: two. First offered in the 1986 catalog, the airport would continue to be cataloged through 2000.



Photo 1

K-4021 Airport With Planes Version 1

Cataloged: A regularly cataloged item, cataloged from 1981 Regular–1996 Traditional

Photo 1 shows all of the items included with the building.

Hanger: Unpainted white walls, skylights on roof, and windsock. Unpainted blue doors, side windows, roof and searchlights. Sticker with K-LINE AVIATION in blue, outlined in blue, to be applied above hanger door. Photo 2.



Photo 2

Radar Tower: Unpainted blue tower, unpainted white screen.

Planes: (Unpainted silver/grey). Kit included three of the following:

1. Douglas DC-3. Photo 3
2. Douglas DC-6. Photo 4
3. Lockheed F-80 Shooting Star. Photo 5
4. Republic P-47 Thunderbolt Razorback. Photo 6
5. Brewster F-2A Buffalo. Photo 7
6. Douglas A-26 Invader. Photo 8
7. Beechcraft Bonanza. Photo 9

Figures: (Unpainted beige)

1. Porter carrying luggage
2. Conductor
3. Man in overcoat
4. Woman w/child
5. Man carrying briefcase w/coat over right arm
6. Newsboy

Accessories: (Unpainted silver/grey)

1. Bench
2. Tractor
3. Small hand truck with baggage
4. Large hand truck without baggage
5. Baggage cart with baggage
6. Dolly with handle



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



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Photo 10

Version 2

Cataloged: A regularly cataloged item, cataloged from 1999 First Edition–2000 Second Edition

Hanger: Unpainted light tan walls, silver/gray painted rear window. Unpainted silver/gray skylights on roof, side windows, door, windsock, and searchlights. Unpainted green roof. Blue sticker with K-LINEVILLE AVIATION in white to be applied above hanger door. Photo 10

Radar Tower: Unpainted silver/grey tower and screen.

Planes: (Unpainted silver/grey). Kit included three of the following:

1. Douglas DC-3. Photo 3
2. Douglas DC-6. Photo 4
3. Lockheed F-80 Shooting Star. Photo 5
4. Republic P-47 Thunderbolt Razorback. Photo 6
5. Brewster F-2A Buffalo. Photo 7
6. Douglas A-26 Invader. Photo 8
7. Beechcraft Bonanza. Photo 9

Figures: (Unpainted beige)

1. Porter carrying luggage
2. Conductor
3. Man in overcoat
4. Woman w/child
5. Man carrying briefcase w/coat over right arm
6. Newsboy

Accessories: (Unpainted silver/grey)

1. Bench
2. Tractor

3. Small hand truck with baggage
4. Large hand truck without baggage
5. Baggage cart with baggage
6. Dolly with handle



Photo 11

K-402102 Reindeer Residence & Flight School

Cataloged: 2004 Fall Fair Days-2005 Second Edition

This building was one of 5 buildings included in the K-012103A North Pole Village prominently featured on the cover of the 2004 Fall Fair Days catalog. "This unique Christmas Village is decorated for Santa's distribution operation at the North Pole".

The Reindeer Residence & Flight School was a clever re-configuration of the airport hanger.

The buildings all included DECORATION LABELS which could be cut out and attached to the buildings. The instructions stated the labels could be trimmed around the edges and attached to the buildings, if the labels had a white background. If the labels had a clear background the artwork was to be trimmed to within 1/16" and attached to the building. As the latter consisted of strings of lights this would have been very difficult to do. The Reindeer Residence & Flight School was unique in that it had a large label that the purchaser was to "mount in the inside of the Reindeer Residence & Flight School for an



Photo 12



Photo 13

interior scene". Photo 11 is of this label. The label is 2 3/4" high x 6 5/8" long. As these are the dimensions of the hanger door opening, apparently the label was designed to fit within, or just behind the hanger door. With a little judicious trimming the label can be mounted such that the hanger door could be closed, or opened to reveal the "interior scene".

Hanger: Unpainted light gray walls, silver/gray painted rear window. Unpainted silver/gray side windows, door, windsock, and searchlights. Unpainted blue roof and skylights on roof. A LOFT AND ALOFT printed in red and Reindeer Residence and Flight School printed in black above the hanger door. Photo 12 is with the hanger door down; photo 13 is with the hanger door raised to reveal the large label

A number of decoration labels were to be applied by the purchaser. Photos 14 and 15 show some of the additional labels.

Radar Tower: Unpainted silver/gray tower and screen.

Planes: None

Figures: None

Accessories (Unpainted silver/gray)

1. Bench
2. Tractor
3. Small hand truck with baggage
4. Large hand truck without baggage
5. Baggage cart with baggage
6. Dolly with handle

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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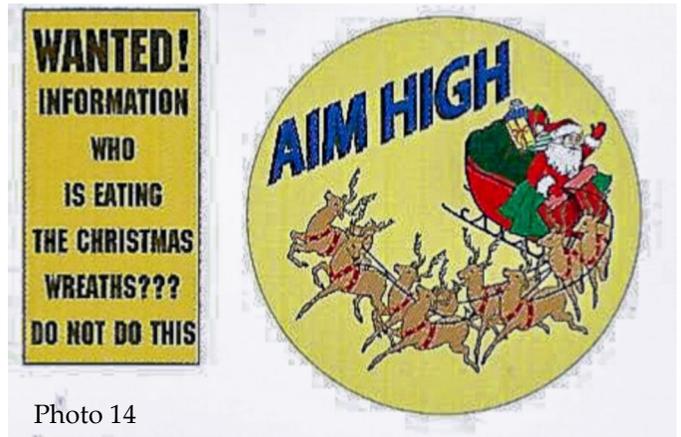


Photo 14

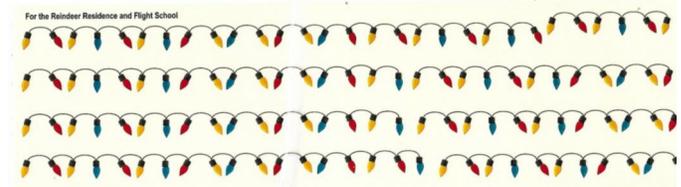


Photo 15

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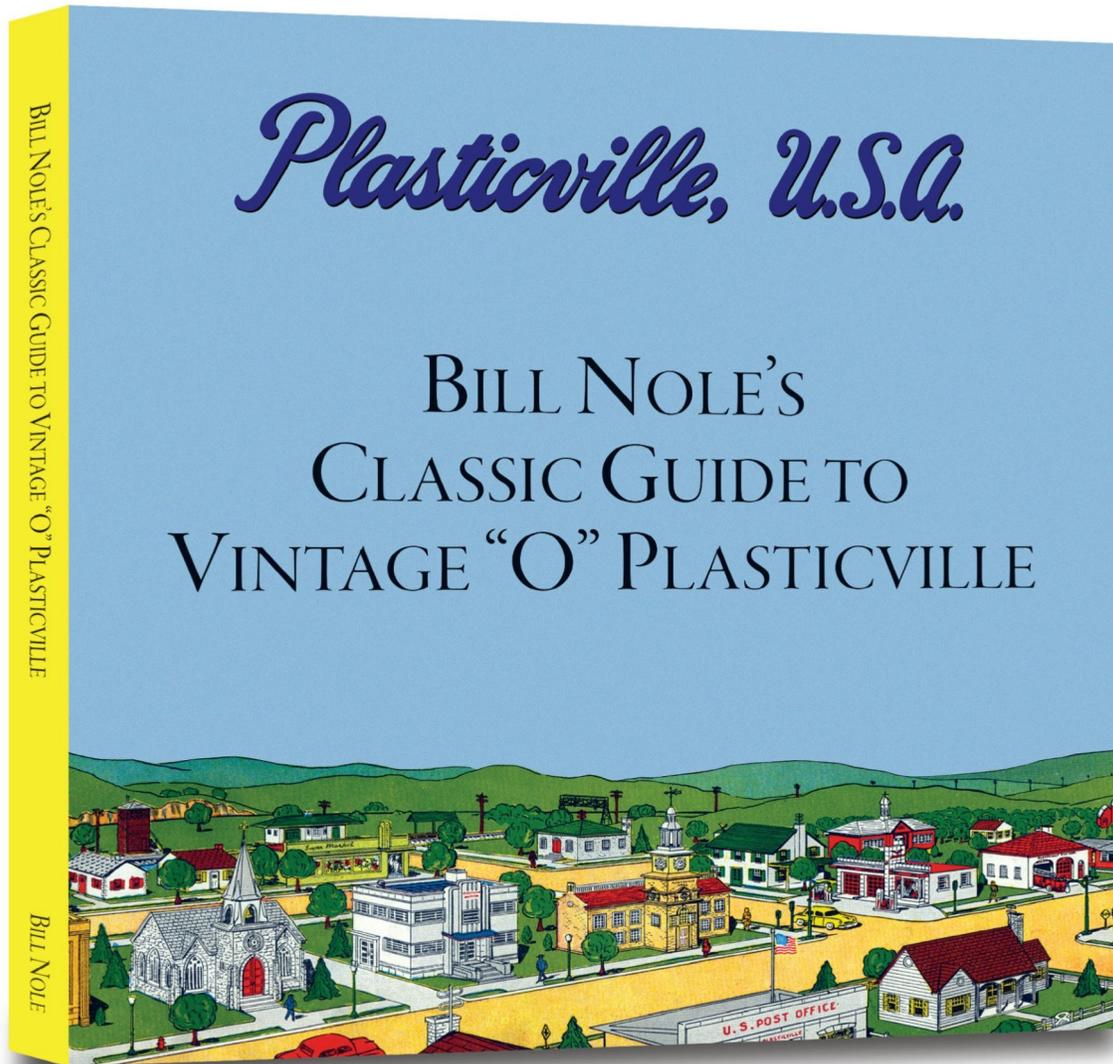
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SKYLINE HOUSES

JIM BENNETT

Circa 1950 the Korean war was in full swing, gasoline was 27 cents a gallon, bobby-soxers were dancing in the aisles to Frank Sinatra and Baby Boomers were....well, babies....and the Skyline Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia, PA., already famous for their paper, cardstock, wood and tin lithograph model train structures, tested the waters of the burgeoning plastic structure market by introducing three plastic building kits. They were: The K5 Church; The K10 House with Garage (dubbed The Westchester); and the K20 House without Garage (dubbed The Penn-Valley). The Church came in several variations and the houses were all white with a choice of four different colors (Red, Blue, Green and Maroon) for the trim (i.e. Roof, Windows, Doors, Flower Box and Trellises). They also offered a Plastic Village set (K-50) that had one Church, one Westchester House and two Penn-Valley houses. Bachmann bought the rights to these structures in 1953. Bachmann then redesigned the front wall of the Church and added their signature wiring notch to the rear wall and reintroduced it to the toy train market as the Plasticville CC-9 Church Kit in their 1953 catalog. Neither hide nor hair of the two houses was ever heard of again. Bachmann never reproduced them, and I think I know why. After obtaining my first Skyline house this past December I went to include it on my Christmas platform. It towered over my other Plasticville and K-Line buildings! (See photo 1 for the comparison of the two Skyline houses to the Plasticville Cape Cod house). These houses are full O-Scale and Bachmann had chosen a philosophy of playing both ends against the middle by making their structures S-Scale (to appease American Flyer aficionados) with O-Scale doors (to pacify Lionel lovers). The Church blended in but the Skyline houses were just too big to fit in with this strategy. This article will review these two "lost to history" structures from the mid twentieth century.

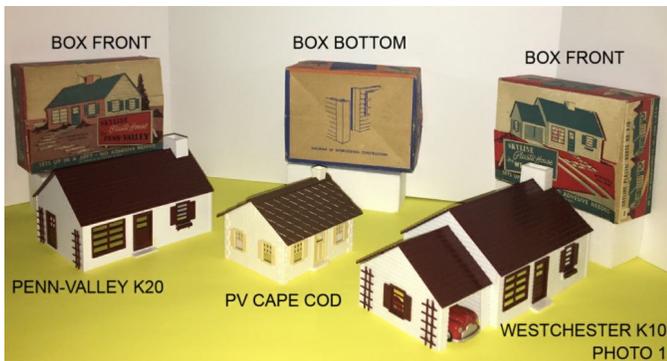


PHOTO 1

THE PENN-VALLEY & THE WESTCHESTER

The K-20 House without garage (AKA the Penn-Valley): The Penn-Valley is 7" wide, 5" deep, 4.25" high to the peak of the roof and 4.75" high to the top of the chimney. The front of the house has an 8 pane window on the left, a door in the center and a 4 pane window on the right. Under the right window is a flower box. The right side has 2 four pane windows with shutters. The rear wall has 2 four pane windows with shutters on the left and a 4 pane window without shutters on the right. The left side has a door, off center to the left, and two trellises. (Photos 1&2)



PHOTO 2

The K-10 House with garage (AKA the Westchester): On the Westchester, the front wall, right side and rear wall are the same as the Penn-Valley. The left side wall is also the same with the off center door, but the holes that held the trellises on the Penn-Valley are empty to facilitate the locating pins for the garage walls. The garage is 3" wide, 4.25" deep and 3.5" to the peak of the roof. The garage opening on the front garage wall is 2" wide and 1.625" high. There is no garage door (more of a carport than a garage). The rear garage wall has a door, off centered to its left. The garage left side wall has a 4 pane shuttered window and two trellises. There are two locating pins on both the front and rear garage walls. These press into the former trellis holes on the left side of the house. These are a press fit so exercise caution and patience when removing them. They break easy. (Photos 1, 2&7)

The inside of the walls (photo 5) have no Manufacturer identification molded in to show that these were made by Skyline. They do have backward/mirror image numbers to identify which mold they came from. Looking at the inside edges you'll see the tongue and groove assembly method shown on the bottom of the box. Not shown on the dia-



PHOTO 3

gram are three locking tabs (photo 6), one on the side pieces and two on the fronts and backs that form a “nest” for the one tab on the sides.

The 2 house roof pieces have 6 locating pegs each to position them. There is no cut-out for the chimney. The garage roof pieces have 4 locating pegs each. The chimney is 1.25” wide, .75” deep and 1” high. It is notched to fit the roof in any location desired.

SKYLINE BOXES

(See photos 1, 2, 3 & 4)

The Skyline boxes are 7.75” wide, 5.75” deep and 2.375” high. They have a raised insert inside with a divider and a cutout to store the chimney. They are printed in varying shades of red and blue on a white background. The top of the K-10 house with garage box has a picture of the K-10 that is cut out on the sides and top and declares it to be an “Architectural Scale Model”. There is a billboard that says “Skyline plastic house the Westchester” and along the bottom it states “Sets up in a jiffy. No adhesive needed. See diagram on bottom of box” The top of the K-20 house without garage box is the same except its billboard says “Skyline plastic house the Penn-Valley” The bottom of each box shows an assembly diagram that highlights the tongue in groove assembly method (but it doesn’t show the interlocking tabs).

The front-side panel of the K-10 box shows three views of the Westchester along a straight street with driveways going to the garages. Above the three houses it extols the kits attributes of “garage, window box, two trellises, large picture window and smooth realistic corner joints. Underneath the three houses it states that it is “the finishing touch for trains and Christmas gardens”. The front-side panel of the K-20 box has similar wording (sans the garage) and shows three pictures of the Penn-Valley along a curved street with sidewalks going to the front door. The K-20 house depicted on the far right is incorrect as it shows a door and a trellis on the left side of the house instead of two trellises and a door.



PHOTO 4

The back-side panel of the K10 box has a picture of the K5 Church on the left and a picture of the K20 house on the right. In the center is a blue rectangle stating “YOU’LL WANT SKYLINES OTHER SWELL PLASTIC STRUCTURES! STYLE K5 – CHURCH Has Stained Glass Windows. STYLE K20 – HOUSE WITHOUT GARAGE Comes in Four Color Combinations. The back side panel of the K20 is similar except it has a picture of the K10 on the left with the Church on the right and in the rectangle it mentions the K10 HOUSE WITH GARAGE.

The right and left side panels of the K-10 box are alike and both sides say “Skyline plastic house no. K10” along the top. In the middle are two more pictures of the K-10 and along the bottom it says “The Skyline manufacturing Co., Inc., Phila. 2, U.S.A. The right and left side panels of the K-20 box are alike and both sides say “Skyline plastic house no. K20” along the top. In the middle are two more pictures of the K-20 and along the bottom it says “The

HOBBY HAVEN

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Skyline manufacturing Co., Inc., Phila. 2, U.S.A. On one of the side panels, usually the left side, there is a small white sticker with black lettering that says either RED, BLUE, GREEN or MAROON so you know what color trim is inside.



CAUTIONS, ASSEMBLY, DISASSEMBLY & REPAIR

(See Photos 5, 6 & 7)

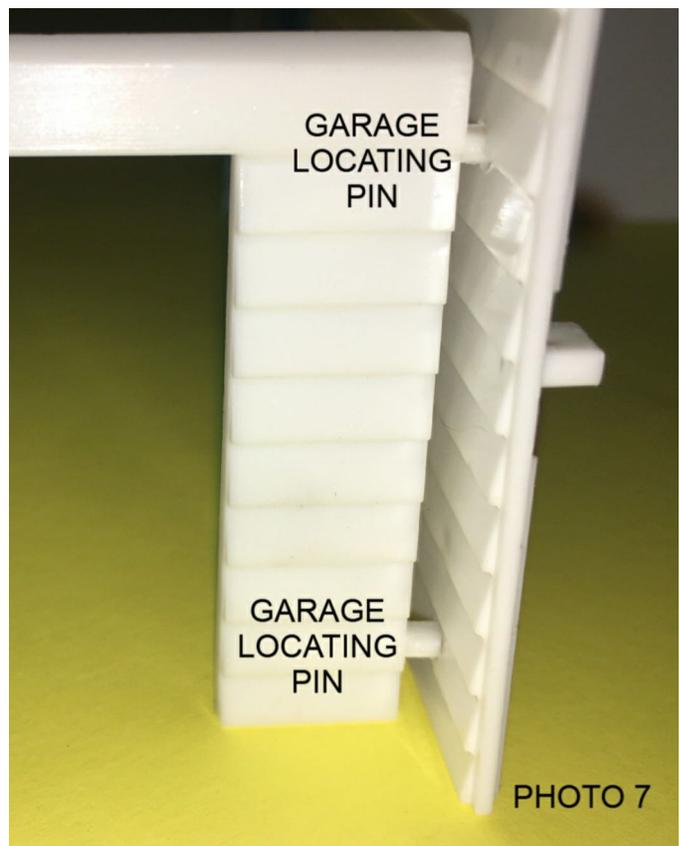
If you want to utilize these houses on your layout make sure you separate them from the standard Plasticville structures by using a farm, field, stream or a mountain so they don't overshadow and look out of place. If you'd like to obtain some Skyline buildings I wish you luck, they're few and far between on E-Bay and I've yet to find one in pristine condition (maybe at York this year!). Most often broken or missing are the trellises and the locating pins on the garage. I got lucky when I responded to an ad in The

Villager for spare parts and was able to replace some of my broken trellises. The one I wasn't able to replace, a Maroon one, I repaired with a piece of Plastruct and painted it with DecoArt Antique Maroon acrylic paint (available from Amazon). It was a perfect match.

When assembling; start the tongue into the groove then apply pressure to the locking tabs from (either) the front or back pieces. DO NOT apply pressure to the trellises (you'll be sorry!). To disassemble, hold the side pieces and pull the front or back pieces. To disassemble the garage front and back pieces make a block to rest them on and use the pin punch same as you did for the trellis. Remember, these pins are a force fit and don't release easy. If push comes to shove, add a miniscule drop of WD-40 to them. Don't twist them!

To remove Trellises I made a makeshift fixture from a Styrofoam block. I traced a trellis on the block, burned out the Styrofoam with a soldering iron to make a nest and knocked it out with a pin punch, alternating back and forth between both pins.

I hope you enjoyed this blast from the past about two of the pioneering, snap-fit, model railroad structures that helped launch the plastic village phenomenon that we all so much know and love today.



K-LINE KRONICLES: -LINE #K-4224 CHEZ LILLIAN RESTAURANT BUILDING AND #K-4224A ADD-A-FLOOR

ED BERG



In an earlier article about the K-Line Newspaper building, I detailed some of the problems encountered with assembling it. The concept behind the building was noble – the execution, not so much. This is not so much of a review as a cautionary tale to anyone attempting to build these structures. On the plus side, that don't take up a lot of toy train real estate being only about 7" square. They also allow you to have a building as tall as you'd like courtesy of the add-a-floor kits. But be aware that there are drawbacks. Now, I'm no great shakes as a modeler so encountering any kit that's problematic from the get-go is quite frustrating.

As mentioned in a previous article, the tabs on the tops of the walls do not line up with the slots underneath the base units that come with the add-a-floor kits. I found that by filing off tabs on the two side walls and the front wall, *but* leaving the tabs in place on the back wall (the *only* tabs that would line up) allowed me to at least place each floor in position. Right now, none of my added floors are glued to each other.

The tabs on the walls are generally too thick and too long to precisely fit into the slots in any of the base plates. Every tab needs to be filed down to allow any kind of a decent fit.



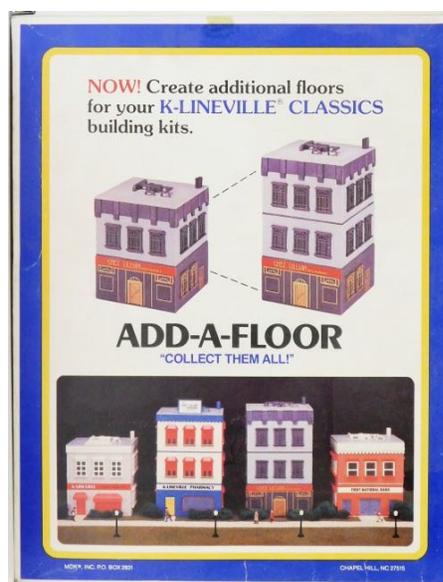
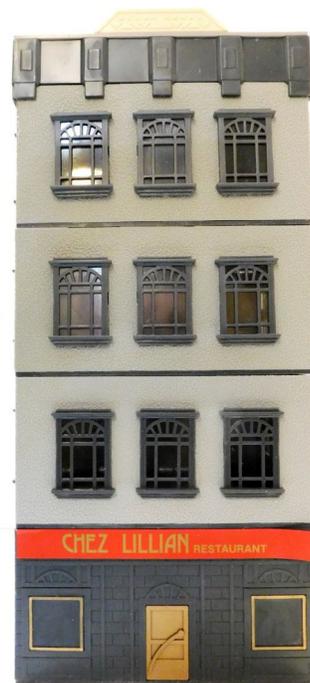
On the Chez Lillian Restaurant, the side and front walls are *taller* than the back wall pieces which are standard across the full range of buildings. That means there will be a gap between the back wall and the side walls.

The doors and front wall window inserts tend to be too large to just pop into place. They pop out again! They'll need to be filed down in order to fit.

There are two tabs on each window frame that are supposed to latch-on to lugs sticking out of the side and front walls. Those lugs are too long and need to be filed down in order for the tabs on the window frames to engage them.

The tabs on the window frames for the Daily Newspaper Building were so thick that when trying to insert the frames into the wall opening, they broke off – due in part I suppose to the age of the plastic, but also due to poor design. Again, filing down those tabs aids in assembly.

Not all of the clear plastic window glazing pieces fit into the window frames correctly and some required a bit of filing for them to fit.



The Chez Lillian box photos clearly show there is no roof ornament and no holes on the roof to accommodate it, yet the roof supplied in the kit clearly has holes for one. I added one from a donor building!

All I wanted was a vintage kit with a small footprint and verticality to

fit into my cityscape. The layout is small and is an experiment in how much of a big city look can be crammed into a small space. While the K-Line kits do promise a lot by way of that big city look, be aware that they present some challenges during assembly.

Figures and accessories included in kit: None

Ed "ICE" Berg

Las Vegas, NV



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

THE YORK REPORT

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

There was a strong showing at the 11 AM PCA meeting which took place in the Orange Hall on Friday, April 21st. About 20 people stopped by with several folks bringing items to share with the group. James Forace brought an interesting Littletown combina-



tion unit. These are a lot harder to find than their Plasticville counterparts. He also had an HO road racing item, the Hot Dog stand. This was a re-purposed frosty bar with an updated sign to read "HOT DOGS".

Don Huovinen brought a collection of HO Blister Packs that were still sealed in the original packaging. These are from the same era as the O/S poly-bags. Don also brought a partial all-white church from the display 1225-240. Interestingly his piece had the

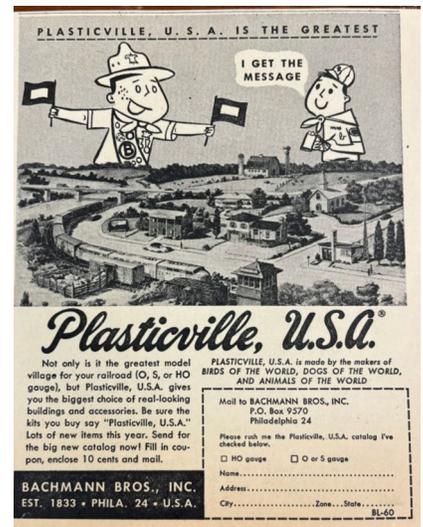


original foam base. The original owner clearly enjoyed re-positioning the items in the base! The Church had pegs in the base to attach it to the base. Along with the church, the original set would have had several trees and shrubs, each with a white or clear peg, and several citizens molded in color, also with a white or clear peg.



Jim Bennett brought his homemade mail lady (featured on the cover). The group was very impressed with his craftsmanship and painting skills!

Three paper items were also brought. Tony Santay brought a Plasticville newspaper from an unknown year and an unknown paper. He also had a play guide that was included in some kits in 1956-1958. Paul Rorer brought an MU-2 instruction sheet. Most of the group was unaware this type of instruction sheet existed.



Outside of the meeting hall, there was plenty of Plasticville to be found in all different price ranges. Nothing exceptionally rare stood out but there were a lot of good complete kits that were inexpensive if you knew where to look.

Coming to York in October? Make sure to bring something to share.

WHAT READERS ARE SAYING

I read with interest Donald W Huovinen's article on painted Plasticville in the December 2022 issue of The Villager. Don mentions that the clocks on the Town hall were highlighted in red. I would like to add that the clock faces were also highlighted in black and possibly light gray.

Here is an addition to painted pieces. Early red and white outhouses had the HIS and HERS lettering on the doors highlighted in the same color as the walls. The brown, olive, and flesh outhouses did not have their HIS and HERS lettering painted except for one that recently I saw in a YA-9 Yard Accessories unit.

Don also mentions the Lionel Collectors Club of America Dairy Barn. The run of barns may have been a special run but the decoration was not done by Bachmann. They were customized by the LCCA the same as if a modeler customized just one for his layout. This piece was discussed in some depth in Volume 8 Number 3 of PCA newsletter. It is available for review on our website. Don is correct that the lettering on the PCA 10th Anniversary barn was done at Bachmann's factory.

«« »»

Does anyone know how to contact the creator of the YouTube videos who uses the name "plasticvillemayor"? He has mentioned using battery operated puck lights in his buildings. I would like to know where these are available for purchase.

«« »»

A friend of mine mentioned to me "in looking at the Plasticville shade trees, one can see the resemblance to those used on the America Flyer Pikemaster scenic panels. The only difference is the Plasticville trees are styrene plastic while the America Flyer trees are polyethylene plastic. I would say the AC Gilbert Co. had them made by

Bachmann." I have never come across any discussion of this. Do you or any of the Villager readers have any insight? - Tom Fritsch

«« »»

I have found that King's Hobby of Austin, Texas, is taking orders for the Plasticville 75th anniversary structures. There are four O-scale buildings at \$32.25 each and three H0-scale buildings at \$25.80 each. They have indicated that their scheduled arrival is currently 5/5/23 to the USA on a container from China. - Tom Fritsch

«« »»

Is it considered unethical to repair a plastic structure with reproduction and/or fabricated parts? I'd like to think it's ok so long as it's done tastefully and a disclaimer is included with the unit in it's box (i.e. a paper stating exactly what was repaired or replaced, when it was done and by whom). Specifically I'm referring to some Skyline houses I acquired recently. Many have broken trellis' and broken location pins. I can fabricate pieces of Plastruct styrene and repair them but I'd just like to know what the opinion of other plastic village aficionados and enthusiasts is on this subject. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being a glued together structure, where would you rate this repair procedure? - Jim Bennett



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BACK IN THE BOX / A CONTINUING SERIES ON REPACKING PLASTICVILLE

1622 Dairy Barn

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

You should now all be proficient at putting the BN-1 type barns back into their boxes. If not check out my first "Back in the Box" article in Volume 20's April edition.

But what about the 1622 Dairy Barn? Let's see how it can be put "Back in the Box"

Start with the empty box with the lid away from you.

Photo 1. Place the two end walls into the box with their faces up, the side with the silo mount should be on top and both against the front of the box. The sides should also touch the sides of the box.



Photo 2. Place the large part of the roof upside down and to the back of the box with the side with the angle to the left. It should be touching the back of the box. The larger part of the roof should be somewhat resting on the previously inserted barn walls.

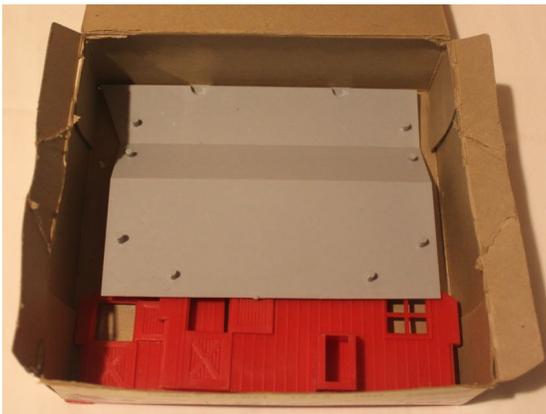


Photo 3. Place the small part of the roof upside down on top of the large roof section with the side with the angle to the right and nesting in the large section.

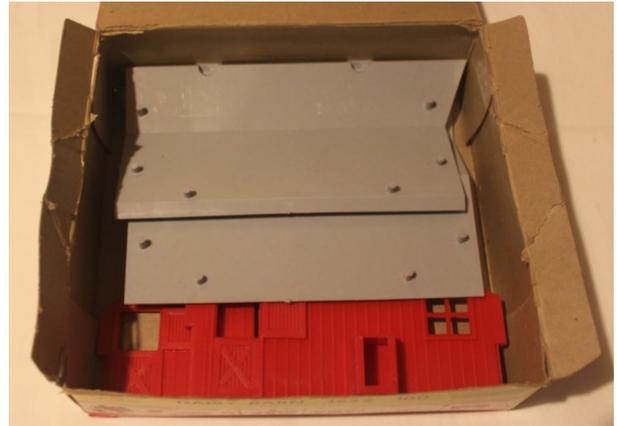


Photo 4. Place the side wall with the moveable doors into the box face up on top of the roof sections. It should touch the back of the box.



Photo 5. Place the remaining side wall into the box face up on top of the other side wall.



Photo 6. Place the silo halves into the box with their inner sides down. The silo mounts should face towards the inside of the box and towards each other.



Photo 7. Place the silo cap in the left front corner of the box.



Photo 8. Place the two ventilators between the two silo halves. Place the four barn doors on the roof sections and to the left of the inner silo half.



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".

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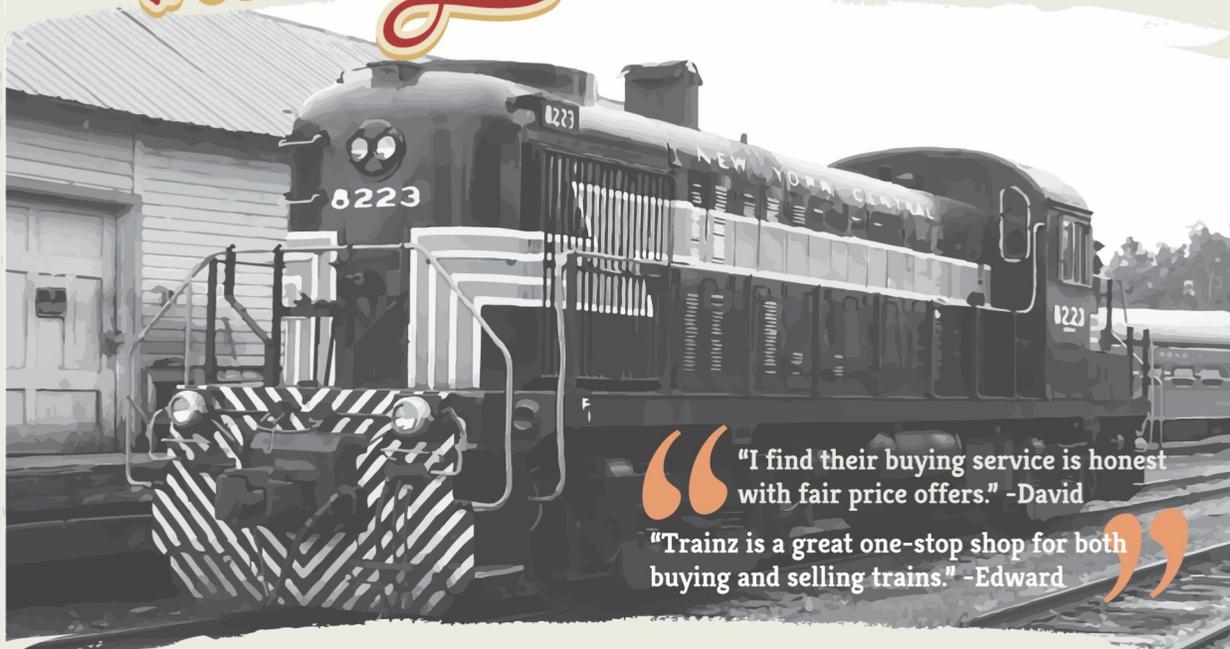
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Did You Know?

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

Railroads of the Eastern Shore, Lorette Treese, 176 pages, softcover, 6×9 format, \$21.99. Published by The History Press, an imprint of Arcadia Publishing. Lightly captioned black and white photos throughout.

I lived fairly near the Eastern Shore and never realized it. For others who are geographically challenged Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia peninsula, sometimes called Delmarva, is the Eastern Shore. It extends south from approximately Newark, Delaware to Cape Charles, Virginia. Cape Charles is a bit northeast of mainland Norfolk, Virginia.

The book contains the customary acknowledgments and a well written four page introduction. There are a total of seven chapters, a bibliography, an index, as well as a single page about the author.

The first chapter delves into the early history of the Eastern Shore. Although the area was considered backwards it provided a large portion of seafood such as crabs and oysters that were exported to Europe. There was also a tourist attraction, the annual Chincoteague wild pony swim which is still held annually. There was no real dining or lodging accommodations at this time.

The first railroad on the peninsula was the horse drawn New Castle and Frenchtown Rail Road inaugurated in February, 1832. By August a steam engine was pulling the passenger coach making it one of the earliest railroads to offer steam-drawn passenger service. Chapter two describes how this short, 16 mile, railroad spurred the interest in completing a rail line down the entire peninsula.

Chapter three describes how the Pennsylvania Railroad became interested in extending its interests south. This included creating the Southern Railway Security Holding Company. Its main goal was to gain control of southern railroads.

The New York Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad Company was the consolidation of the Peninsula Railroad Company of Virginia and the Peninsula Railroad Company of Maryland. It is described in detail in chapter four.

Chapter five relate as to how as the chapter title reads, "The Pennsy Officially Adopts the NYP&N". As with many Pennsy "adoptions" all wasn't roses.

The last two chapters note the peak and then the beginning to fold in the twentieth century of the railroad due to the construction of the Chesapeake Bay-Bridge Tunnel and massive road improvements on the peninsula.

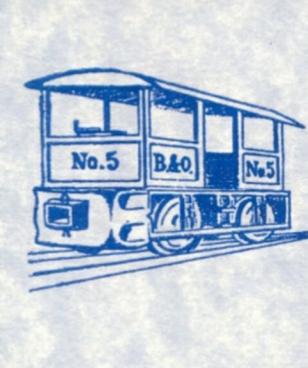
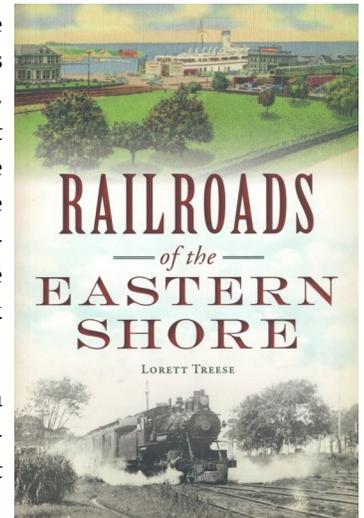
As with many books there are numerous railroads noted throughout, many, or most, of which I had not been aware. It would be interesting to research one or more of these more obscure lines. There are enough noted in this book from which to pick.

Railroads of the Eastern Shore 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. It was listed on Barnes and Noble's website as well as Amazon but, surprisingly, at the publisher's list price as well as slightly higher price for a hardcover edition on both sites yet a hardcover edition is not listed on Arcadia's website.

I received the following reply from the publisher when questioning why their website did not offer a hardbound edition, "The book is available in soft cover from our website and retailers. However, Amazon does offer the option to have the book printed on demand in a hardback format." It seems the Barnes & Noble is also having the book printed on demand in hardback.

The Arcadia website also lists, as well as Amazon, what one might call a companion book. It is part of the Images of Rail series titled Eastern Shore Railroad.



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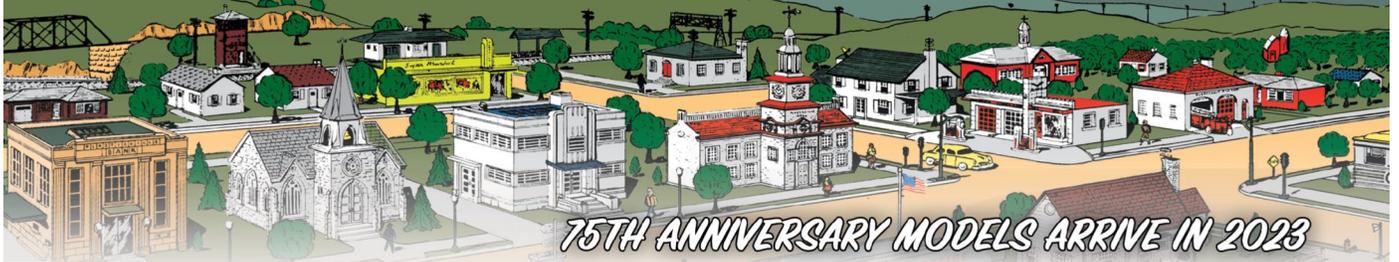
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