



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

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Number 2

K-LINE TELEPHONE POLES



DONALD W. HUOVINEN

Certainly the most recognizable toy train accessory is the telephone pole. For K-Line this is especially true as telephone poles were not only available for separate sale for an incredibly long time, 23 years, but were also included as components in 33 sets.

Photo 1



K-4176 Telephone Poles (12) (Photo 1)

A Separate Sale Item

Catalogued: 1983 Regular-2005 First Edition

Color: Chocolate brown (Photo 2)

Packaging: As a separate sale item the telephone poles were package in a Type 1 box (Photo 3), a Type 5 box (Photo 4), as well as Header Bag 1D (Photo 5).



Photo 2

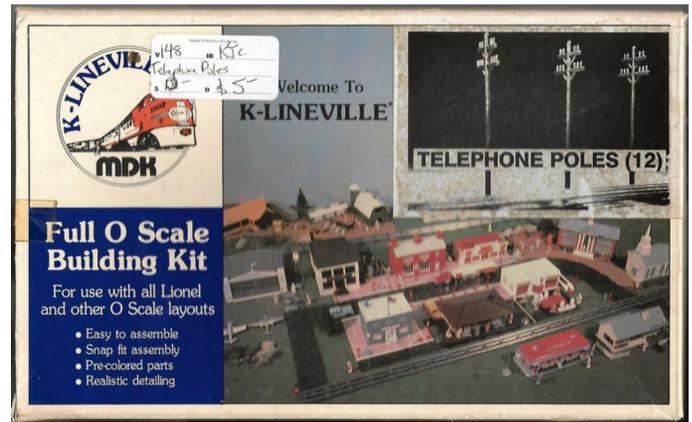


Photo 3

K-4176 Telephone Poles (5)

As set components, five telephone poles were included in each set. The poles were included in 27 cataloged sets: K-1004, K1005, K-1111, K-1420, K-1425, K-1501, K-1522, K-1527, K-1601, K-1604, K-1701, K-1702, K-1703, K-1706, K-1707, K-1712, K-1713, K-1714, K-1719, K-1802, K-1806, K-1902, K-1903, K-1912, K-1921, K-1922, and K-1923. The telephone poles were also included in 4 uncataloged sets: K-1121, K-1320, K-1520, and K-1624.

Catalogued: 1987 Regular-2000 Second Edition

Color: Chocolate Brown

Packaging: Typically loose in set box but also in a plain plastic bag.

K-4176GT Telephone Poles (10) (Photo 6)

The Villager

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Photo 4

This was a set component of K-1123S and K-1123W, "The Girl's Train"

Catalogued: 2002 First Edition-2002 Second Edition

Color: Light Lavender (Photo 7)

Packaging: Perforated plastic bag packaged with other components in a master cardboard box. (Photo 8),

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 5

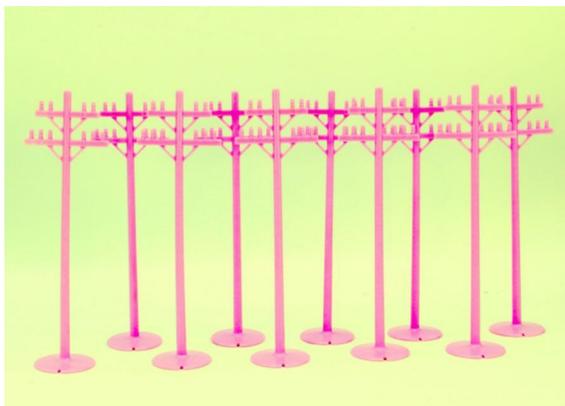


Photo 6



Photo 7

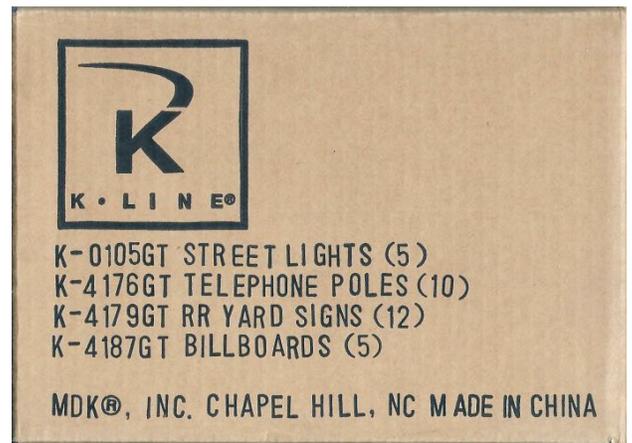


Photo 8





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EDITOR'S COLUMN

This newsletter is a bit on the shorter side. Unfortunately, we have not had any new contributors step up since the last issue. I appreciate John, Ed, Don, Jim, and Andy for continuing to send new material in. There are still a lot of open areas to contribute to:

- Kitbashing
- Littletown and Kleeware
- HO Plasticville
- Layout tours
- Other topics

Your contributions can be one-off, once a year, twice a year, or three times a year. You can write a series of articles and then take a break. It is up to you! No commitment needs to be permanent. Please reach out if you have ideas!

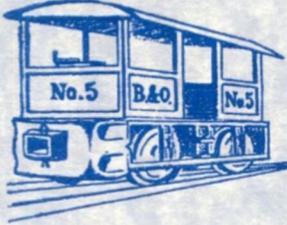
I am looking forward to York again this fall. Last spring's PCA meeting was well attended, and there were a lot of good discussions. Remember that we should once again have some prizes to raffle off, so make sure to stop by.

For the December issue, I would like to feature some photos of members' Holiday (or year-round) setups. Please send me a photo or two to include by mid-November. If we receive enough I will include a photo spread.

Until next time, enjoy!

Matt Harvazinski, *The Villager* Editor

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org



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HAVE YOU REALLY NOTICED?

ANDY ZOLA

Timothy Price's article regarding the LC-2 Log Cabin in *The Villager* Vol. 21 No. 2 newsletter references two different sized boxes for the log cabin. The larger size box actually has 2 different types of boxes. The earlier one I believe, has two small tabs on the bottom holding the inner sides in place and the front tab is actually longer. The one shown in Tim's picture is probably the newer one with less box detail and cost involved to put together.



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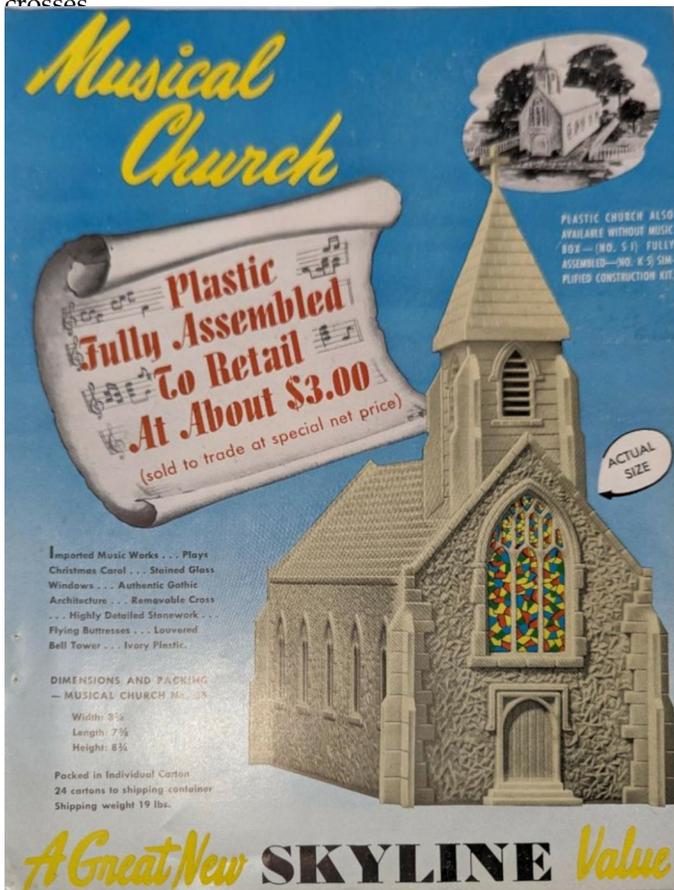
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SKYLINE CHURCHES

ANDY ZOLA

Jim Bennet's article in Volume 22 Issue 1 pretty much covered all the information on the Skyline houses. I would like to add some information and photos regarding the Churches. The most interesting item I have is a double-sided July 1950 Trade Ad. (See the next page) One side has church and the other side has houses (see the next page). The churches are the S-5 musical church fully assembled with removable steeple, the S-1 nonmusical also with removable steeple and the K-5 construction kit with either a cream or turquoise roof. When looking for the Skyline churches be sure the cross is there as this is the hardest piece to find as it is smaller than the Plasticville crosses.



Plastic Village





ASSEMBLED PLASTIC CHURCH—No. S-1
Suggested Retail Price \$1.50
Same as S-5 Musical Church except without music works. Size 3 1/2" x 7 1/2" x 8 1/2" high. Packed in individual carton. 24 boxes to shipping carton. Shipping weight 15 lbs.

PLASTIC CHURCH—No. K-5
Suggested Retail Price \$1.00
Same as S-5 except k.d. and without music works. Individually packaged in colorful display box. 24 boxes to shipping carton. Shipping weight 12 lbs.



SET No. K-30—Suggested Retail Price \$4.00
Set consists of K-5 Church (without music works), K-10 Westchester House and two K-20 Penn Valley Houses. All buildings k.d., but a clock to assemble. No cement necessary. Houses in three assorted color combinations. Handsomely packaged in set box with full color display wrap. 12 boxes to shipping carton. Shipping weight 20 lbs.



PLASTIC RANCH HOUSE—No. K-10—THE WESTCHESTER
Suggested Retail Price \$1.15
K.d., four color combinations.* Size 5" x 10" x 4 1/4" high. Individually packed in colorful display box. 24 boxes to shipping carton. Shipping weight 12 lbs.



PLASTIC RANCH HOUSE—No. K-20—THE PENN VALLEY
Suggested Retail Price \$1.00
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A BIG AUCTION SURPRISE

JOHN NIEHAUS

What would you do if you bid on an auction lot and found that the lot was much larger than expected? That happened to our new advertiser, Barrie Matovcik! He was at an estate auction and decided to bid on two file cabinets on the display floor. Both of the file cabinets contained many different billboard inserts very nicely organized in folders. There were inserts about the size of Plasticville and "Frosted Flakes" billboard inserts as well as larger ones closer to Lionel billboard insert size. Imagine his surprise when he was

told that there were eight file cabinets, not two! The additional file cabinets had inserts that were different from those in the two on which he placed a bid. He now has more than 500 different billboard inserts available instead of around 250.

He is now a new advertiser in the Plasticville Collectors Association newsletter. Check out his ad in this edition of *The Villager*.



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CHURCHES – SKYLINE K-5 AND PLASTICVILLE PARISH

JIM BENNETT

It was 1950 and the American economy was at an all-time high. The denizens of this sweet land of liberty, who had eked out a living through a Great Depression and a World War, now found themselves embracing an unfamiliar new concept known as disposable income. Finally, at long last, Americans could afford to pamper themselves with such luxuries as fancy cars, vacations, television sets and hobbies. The “Greatest Generation” was popping out “Boomer Babies” faster than a speeding bullet; The “Silent Generation” was off to war in Korea; Drove of people were making a mass exodus from the cities and migrating to the suburbs to buy up inexpensive tract housing that all looked the same; “McCarthyism” and the “Second Red Scare” had an apprehensive public fearing there were Communists hiding in every closet; Charles Shultz was delighting throngs of newspaper readers with his new “Peanuts” comic strip; Lionel, American Flyer and Marx (a.k.a. “The Big Three”) were all jockeying for position to be “Numero Uno” at the outset of what would fondly be remembered as the “Golden Decade” of Toy Trains; Bachmann Brothers, of Philadelphia, Pa., had just recently coined the catchphrase “Plasticville U.S.A.” for their line of snap-together, dismantlable, plastic, toy train structures and accessories and another Philadelphia based manufacturer, The Skyline Manufacturing Company (a name long synonymous with superior paper, wood, cardstock and tinplate assemblies for model railroads since the 1930’s and 40’s), was marketing three **new** plastic structures to adorn Christmas Gardens, Fireplace Mantels and Toy Train Layouts. Their half page ad in the November and December 1950 issues of Model Railroader magazine (Figure 1) extolled the virtues of a Church, a House with garage and a house without a garage all made from that latest and greatest, newfangled, space-age polystyrene plastic that was all the rage. The two houses were reviewed in the April 2023 issue of The Villager (Volume 22, Number 1). This article will focus on the K-5 Church (and its descendants).

The Skyline Church came in five configurations that I’ve heard of: The S-1 pre-assembled (i.e. glued together)

Church; The S-5 pre-assembled Musical Church; The S-6 pre-assembled, Illuminated Musical Church and the K-5 Church which came “knocked down” (unassembled). And possibly a piggy bank version with a slot to deposit coins. The Churches themselves were all identical, they just had different attributes:

The S-1 Church came completely glued together.

The S-5 Musical Church came completely glued together, except for the removable cross, in a corrugated cardboard box (photo 1). A Swiss made music box, mounted to the inside rear wall with two screws, played a Christmas carol tune. I’ve listened to mine many times and, try as I might, I just can’t name that tune (any readers that know the name of this melody, please let me know). The removable cross is often missing on this item because it’s not glued on (and wouldn’t fit in the box if it was). The cardboard box, a rare find itself, is 8¼” x 4¼” x 6¼”. Included in the box, along with the cross, was a 4¼” x 2³/₁₆” sheet of type written paper which stated: ATTENTION, THIS TOY CONTAINS A GENUINE IMPORTED SWISS MUSIC BOX. IT WAS TRIPLE TESTED CAREFULLY BY US AND OPERATED PERFECTLY. CAUTION: DO NOT OVERWIND. WITH NORMAL CAREFUL USE IT SHOULD GIVE SATISFACTORY AND PLEASURABLE PERFORMANCE. THE MUSIC BOX IN THIS TOY IS NOT GUARANTEED. REPLACEMENT WILL BE MADE BY US FOR A REASONABLE CHARGE (photo 1, 2).

The S-6 Illuminated Musical Church was the same as the S-5 plus it ALSO had a light. This is listed in the 1981 PLASTICVILLE “O” & “S” SCALE ILLUSTRATED PRICE guide as K-6, but I believe it should have a “S” prefix as only the dismantlable Skyline kits had a “K” prefix and





the glued together, solid structures had an "S" prefix. I've never seen one of these so any readers who have, please drop me a line (with photo if possible).

The "Piggy Bank" Church was mentioned in the September 2002 issue (#8) of the Plastic Village Gazette as a coin bank with a slot on top. No photo or item number available.

The K-5 Church (photo 1) came unassembled (Skyline called it "knocked down") and had to be put together. The outside of the K-5 Church has two side walls with five arched, gothic windows each. The rear wall is unadorned. The four walls feature the slots of the interlock that simulates a flying buttress style of architecture. There are two, beveled roof pieces. Four belltowers, or belfry, pieces which are each adorned with an arched, louvered opening. One steeple with a hole on top to accommodate the cross and one cross to go into that hole. Total pieces are twelve. Once assembled, the belfry, steeple and cross can be placed anywhere as desired along the top of the roof. The front wall has a tiny (far less than O scale) door with a huge arched, gothic window above it. The front door of the Church is 1" high by 5/8" wide which would translate to 4 feet high by 2 1/2 feet wide for O scale people to squeeze through. On the other hand, the window above the door is humongous and overshadows the entire front facade of the Church! It is 2 1/8" high by 1 1/8" wide which is 8 1/2 feet by 4 1/2 feet in O scale. The inside of the Church bears no markings to identify it as Skyline. The Stained-glass windows (photo 2) are multicolored pieces of felt



paper glued to the inside of the front wall and the two side walls behind the windows. There is one 2 1/2" x 1 3/8" piece, with angled top corners, for the front window and two 1 1/2" x 6 1/2" pieces for the side wall windows. These felt paper window pieces are spot glued and exceedingly difficult to remove undamaged. The idea behind these felt paper pieces was to illuminate the interior of the Church and, when provided with interior lighting, let the multi-colored "stained glass" shine through (photo 3), thus creating a pleasing ambiance to a night scene on your display or layout. Skyline listed the overall dimensions of the Church as 3 3/4" x 7 5/8" x 8 3/4" in an ad which appeared in the Carmen Webster Hobby Shops 1950 product advertising catalog (figure 2). It utilized a unique interlocking, slot-to-slot construction technique (photo 4). There are three color choices listed in collector publications: all White, all Cream, or Cream with a Turquoise roof. See



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PHOTO 6

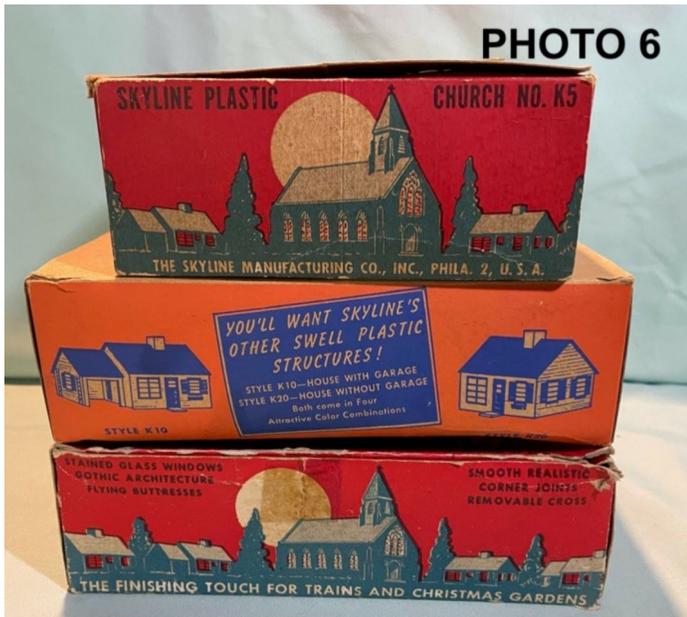


photo 1 for a picture of all Cream and the Cream with Turquoise roof versions. Note that the turquoise roof is painted and is Cream on the inner side. I have encountered some ambiguity concerning the all-White version; While corresponding with an E-Bay seller I was told, in his 66 years in the hobby, he has never seen an all-White one, only Cream-colored and Cream with Turquoise roof. I've myself never seen an all-White one either. The web page for Skyline Manufacturing Company-binnsroad.co.uk cites several pictures of a white church but, to me, they still look like they may be cream colored. In the TCA Quarterly for April 1984 (Vol. 30, No. 2, Tinplate Real Estate Part 4) author Bruce D. Manson Jr. states "Incidentally, the Plasticville Churches were all white and the Skyline Churches were all cream colored." Any readers out there that have seen an all-White Skyline Church please let me know (with a photo if possible).

The K-5 Box (photos 4, 5, 6 & 7) is 7 3/4 "x 5 7/8 "x 2 1/2" and is decorated in shades of Red, White and Blue. The box which contained my Cream-colored church with the turquoise roof is Orange, White and Blue. I don't know if this orange box was by design or just happenstance but the Orange box is what I received my Turquoise roofed Church in. At first, I thought the Orange was formerly Red

that had faded over the last 74 years but when I looked inside the box, the raised divider was also Orange. The raised divider has a cut-out in the smaller, upper section to secure the steeple and cross (and the four belfry pieces if you so desire). The wider section of the divider stores the four wall sections. The top of the box has a bird's-eye view of the Church sitting in a wooded area. A large circle (that makes it look like the sun or the moon landed in the grass behind the church) is off to the left of the church. Inside the circle it says, SKYLINE PLASTIC CHURCH ARCHITETURAL SCALE MODEL. The bottom of the top section says, SETS UP IN A JIFFY, NO ADHESIVE NEEDED, SEE DIAGRAM ON BOTTOM OF BOX. The box top has a perforated cut out around the top of the church and top of the circle so it can pop up for display purposes. The bottom of the box shows a perspective diagram of the interlocking slot-to-slot assembly method of the front wall and a side wall. Underneath the diagram it says, DIAGRAM OF INTERLOCKING CONSTRUCTION. The same type of assembly is used for the bell tower. Place at front of building. Slide steeple over tower. Cross may be removed if desired. The front, side panel shows a K-20 house, a K-10 house, a Church, a K-20 house, and half of a K-10 house with trees in between them. Across the top it states, STAINED GLASS WINDOWS, GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE, FLYING BUTTRESSES, SMOOTH REALISTIC CORNER JOINTS* (*this would be a characteristic of the houses, not the Church. It was probably a "dig" about the corner joints of the Plasticville Cape Cod house), REMOVABLE CROSS. Across the bottom it states, THE FINISHING TOUCH FOR TRAINS AND CHRISTMAS GARDENS. The back, side panel shows a K-10 house on the right and a K-20 house on the left. A blue box with white lettering is in the middle and says, YOU'LL WANT SKYLINE'S OTHER SWELL PLASTIC STRUCTURES! STYLE K10-HOUSE WITH GARAGE, STYLE K20 HOUSE WITHOUT GARAGE. Both come in Four Attractive Color Combinations. The right and left side panels are identical. They depict a K-10 house, the K-5 Church and a K-20 house. Across the top it says SKYLINE PLASTIC CHURCH NO. K5. Along the bottom it reads THE SKYLINE MANUFACTURING CO., INC., PHILA. 2, U.S. A.

The K-5 Church also appeared in Skyline Plastic Village Set K-50 which was comprised of one K-5 Church, one K-10 Westchester House with garage and two K-20 Houses without garage.

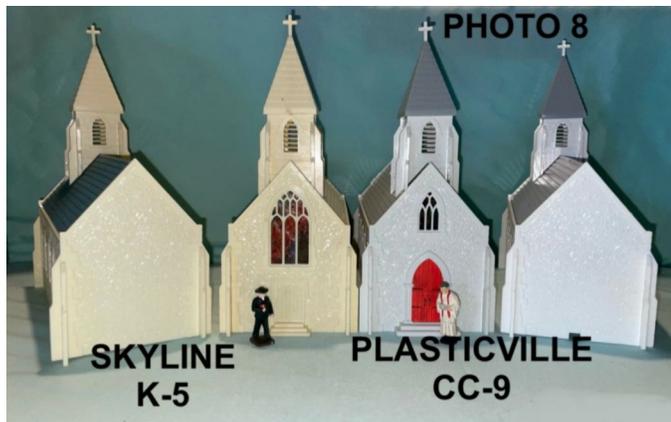
Skyline Church vis à vis Plasticville Parish Church

In 1952 the Bachmann Brothers bought the rights to the three Skyline structures. They did nothing with the two houses, but they did modify the molds for the K-5 Church (photo 8) by redesigning the front wall to make the door larger and the window smaller. A slot to facilitate wiring

PHOTO 7



was added to the back wall and a red, paper door was glued over the front door. Another change was made to the cardboard retention tabs located on the inside, bottom, middle of the side walls (photo 9). These tabs were supposedly meant to retain a card stock bottom to some of the pre-built structures. Photo 10 shows the bottom of my S-5 musical church that a previous owner had cut an opening in, probably to facilitate the installation of a light). The dimensions and shape of these tabs differ from the original Skyline K-5 to the Plasticville versions, and they became quite larger after the initial Plasticville reissue. (Strangely, my CC-9 version has one side wall the same as the Skyline wall and the other wall differs as it doesn't have the long, rectangular strip under the tab). For a more detailed description of these tabs, see Anthony J. Rodgers comprehensive article "Illuminated Plasticville Church in the August 2006 issue of The Villager (Vol. 5, #3).



The CC-9: Bachmann introduced their version of the Church in the 1953 Plasticville catalog as the CC-9 Church Kit (photo 11). The box is a type 2B one piece flip open box in Red, White and Black with a divider inside to store the steeple and cross. The drawing of the Church on the top of the box, in light and dark gray with red door and windows, appears to be floating in air with a simulated cloud background and horizontal red stripes. The dimensions of the Church were listed as 8" long x 3 1/2" wide x 9" high (Skyline listed their dimensions as 3 3/4" x 7 5/8" x 8 3/4") The listed Skyline dimensions are correct for both Skyline and Plasticville as both Churches have identical dimensions. The resized front door is 1 3/4" high by 7/8" wide making it 7 feet tall and 3 1/2 feet wide in O scale. Ergo, your average Plasticville citizen could now go to Church. The window above the door was reduced to 1 3/32" high by 5/8" wide making it 4 feet 4 1/2 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide in O scale. The walls, belfry and cross were all white with a light gray roof and steeple. In the 1955 "Postman" catalog it was called Parish Church CC-9 (and that's the name most people refer to it as today, "THE PARISH CHURCH" or just "Church"). The "stained glass" win-

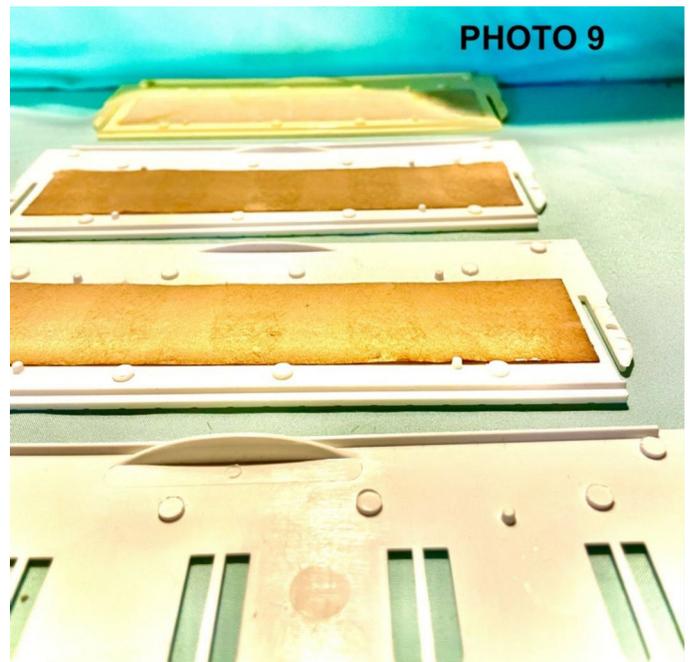


dows were, like Skyline, strips of multi-colored felt paper (photo 12) For a more in-depth account of the Plasticville version of this Church please refer to Tom Fritsch's all-inclusive The History of Plasticville saga in the Villager, Volume 18, March 2019, Number 1, page 17.

The 1600 was introduced in 1956 as just Church (photo 11). The box was a type 5A one piece flip open box with a very colorful rural scene. Other than the different box it was the same white with light gray roof and steeple as the CC-9.

The 5600 (photo 13) was in a Poly bag issued circa 1963. Also white with a light gray roof and steeple.

The 1818 Church (photo 11) is a bit puzzling because the 1818 box came in two different versions with two different color configurations but still retained the same item number: the first version, in the type 8B two-piece lift-top box, was issued in 1971 and was just the same as the previous two with white walls and belfry and a light gray roof and steeple. The box was 8" x 6 1/4" x 1 1/2". This box featured a beautiful painting of the Church with two parishioners walking in. This version came with a new style of "stained





glass" printed on clear film which was pressed onto the inside walls of the church around the window openings (photo 12). These were separate, individual windows, not a long strip like the felt paper. The second version, in the type 9A two-piece lift-top box, had a Dark Gray roof and steeple and came without the stained-glass windows. It did come with the red door, but it wasn't installed. It was a peel and stick that you had to put on yourself. This box measured 9¼"x 6¼"x 1¾" and had a picturesque suburban scene with houses, a gas station, a Suburban station, Loading Platform, a Switch Tower, a Barn and the Church depicted on its box top. Note: This description constitutes how the Churches I possess are configured and there may be different variations that others have in their collections.

The 65-1933 (photo 11) box was issued in 1982 and it too had white walls and belfry with a light gray roof and steeple. This type 11A box measured 9 7/8" x 6" x 2" and was made of very thin, flimsy cardstock with flaps on both sides. It had a photograph of the Church on the top and photos of 12 different Plasticville structures on the back.

The red door and the film "stained glass" stickers came unapplied and had to be affixed by the buyer.

The 45933 (photo 11) was the same box as the 65-1933. It was dubbed a type 11B box because the prefix 65-1 was changed to 45. Otherwise, it was identical to the 65-1933. The Church once again had a Light Gray roof and steeple.

The Parish Church also appeared in thirteen different Master Unit Sets.

There was a built-up version (#225-240) introduced in the mid-1950's that was a glued together "Spirit of Christmas" display for Home Decoration that included the Church, several shrubs, trees and people mounted on a Styrofoam base (photo 14). This was all White. The people, trees and shrubs had pegs glued underneath their bases to stick into the Styrofoam base. It was categorized as being an attractive snow scene • In plastic to add to the holiday spirit • In the home for top of TV set-Mantel-Table.

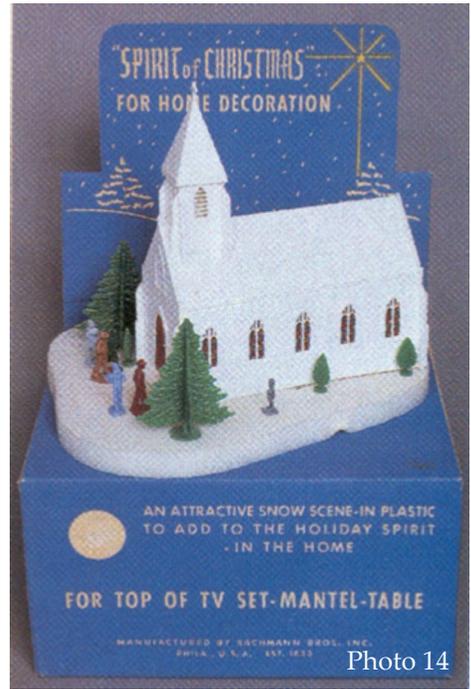
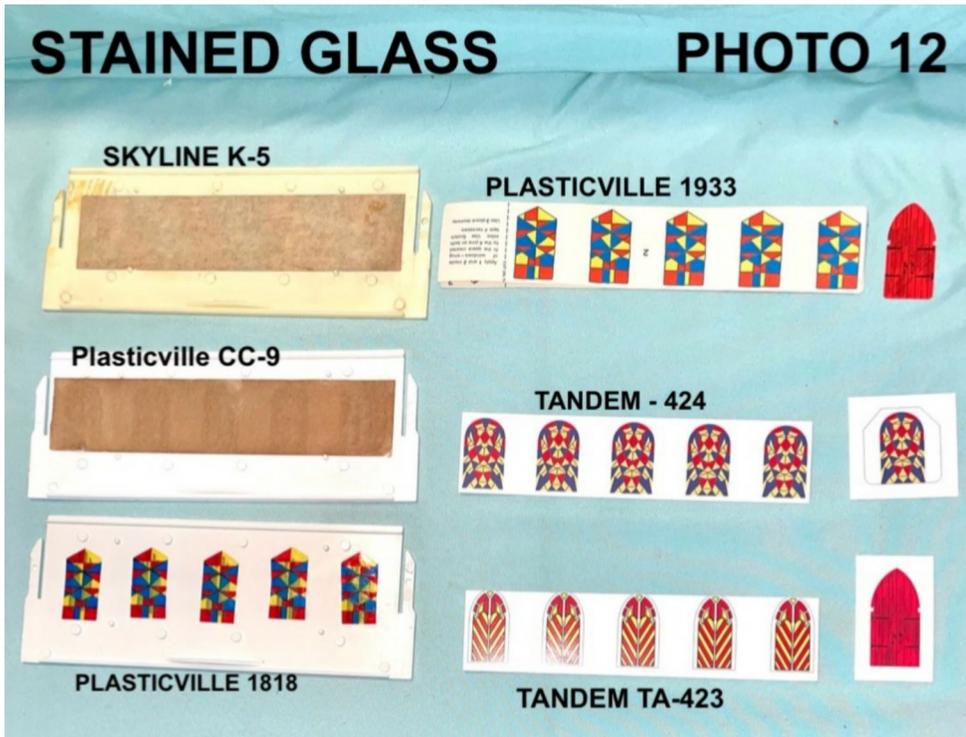
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Common missing of broken parts: The Cross is the most common missing part. The interlocking tangs on the ends of the walls and belfry are sometimes broken and the "stained glass" felt paper of the Skyline K-5, Plasticville CC-9 and 1600 is often deteriorated or damaged. Replacement film type "stained glass" is available from Tandem Associates/Plasticville.

That's the family lineage of the Skyline Church and all its Plasticville descendants (see Family group photo 15). Any reader out there who has additional information, corrections, critique or pictures please contact me at jimbenett351@hotmail.com and I'll compile your input into a statement for a future commentary or article. Or just send a line to the Editor for "What Readers are Saying" column.

Please note that in my article about the Skyline Houses (Villager Volume 22, Number 1) I unintentionally listed the date that Bachmann bought Skyline as 1953 instead of





1952. This was a typo on my part, and I apologize to you, the readers, for my faux pas. I didn't catch it till after the article went to press.

Much appreciation and kudos to the wonderful Train Collectors Association (TCA) Librarian, Michaela Feltman, who provided me with much needed help, information, documentation, research and direction that I was unable to discover on my own for this article. The TCA reference and research Library is a marvelous asset to this hobby!

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Photo 13

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

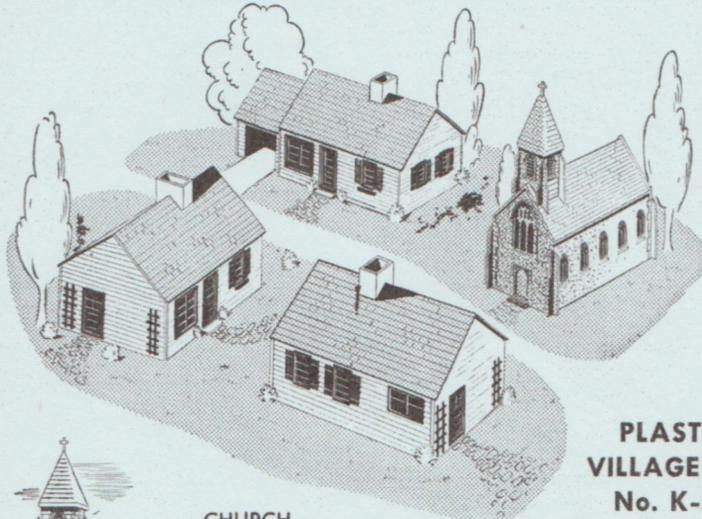
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VILLAGE SET
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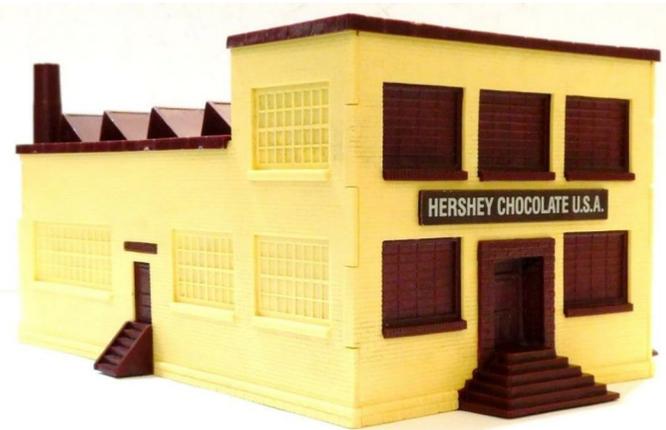
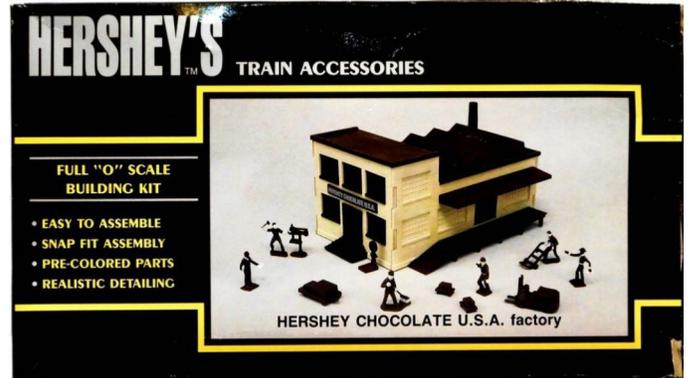
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K-LINE KRONICLES: HOW SWEET IT IS: K-LINE #K-40112 HERSHEY'S FACTORY



ED BERG

In the last issue we looked at the #K-40312 Hershey's Chocolate Town Suburban Station – part of a series of buildings celebrating Hershey's 100th Anniversary. I loved this line of Hershey's trains, buildings, and accessories and had them set up for months on my own train layout out in The Cave. To this day I still pick up the odd missing piece of K-Line Hershey's that may be missing



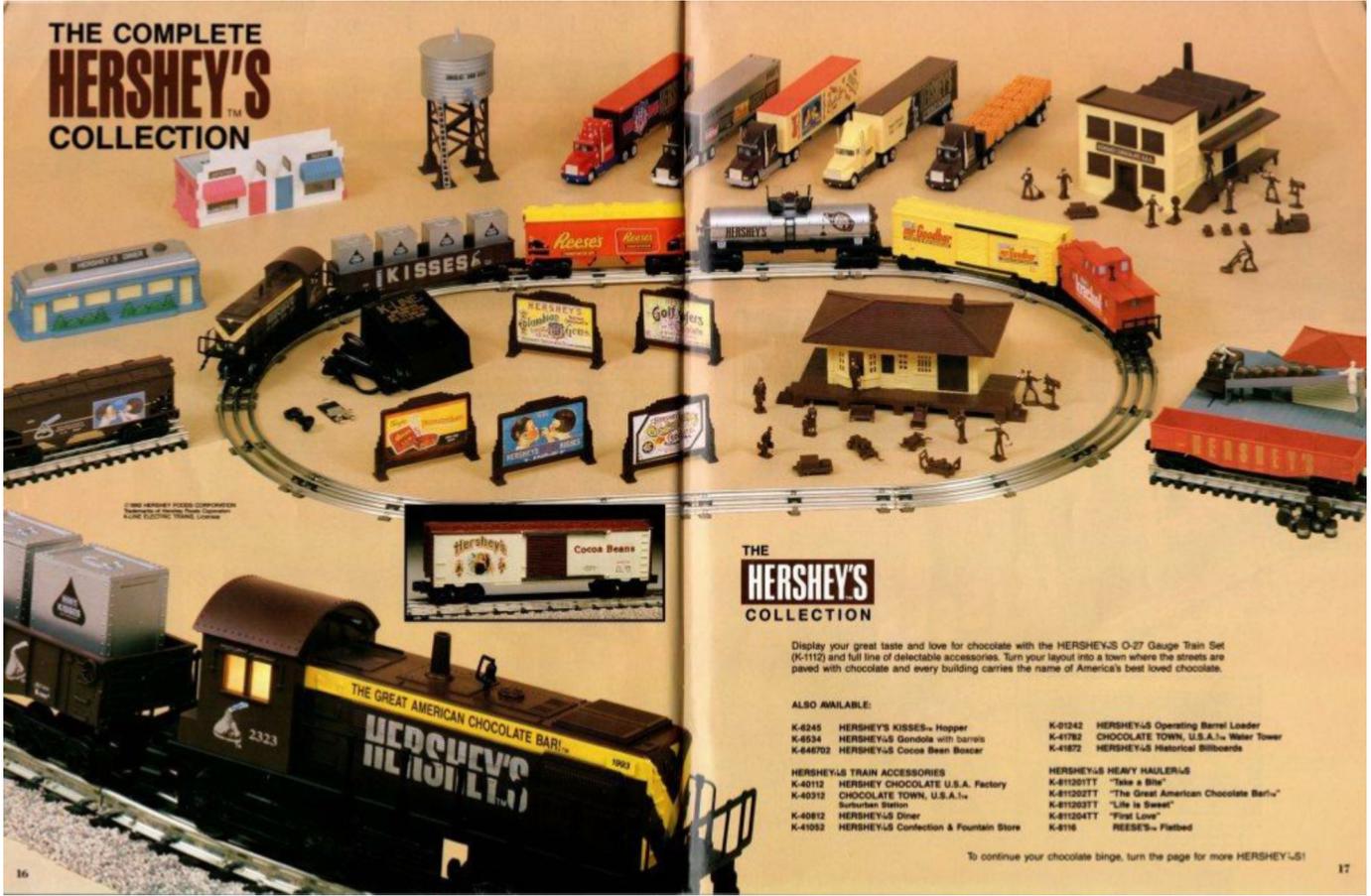
from the collection!

The Hershey's Factory we're looking at today was cataloged in 1993 as a separate sale item and was available in 1994 and 1995. By 1996 it had dropped out of the catalogs. The kit itself is typical repurposed Marx. All the figures and accessories from the original Marx kit are there, with the major difference being the colors which were – appropriately enough – milk chocolate brown. I have to admit, the figures are all given a terrible paint job consisting of a blob of 'flesh' colored paint to the faces and hands! (K-Line did this as well to the figures included in their licensed Coca Cola tie-ins and it made them look like Oompa-Loompas!) The building has cream colored walls with brown roof and trim.

Enjoy!



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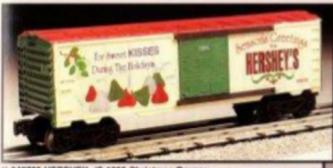
To continue your chocolate binge, turn the page for more HERSHEY'S!

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- K-646706 HERSHEY'S HUGGS™ Boxcar
- K-646708 HERSHEY'S HUGGS™ WITH ALMONDS Boxcar
- K-646707 GOLDEN COLLECTION™ ALMOND Boxcar
- K-6534 HERSHEY'S Gondola wharrels (color may vary)



K-646708 HERSHEY'S 1995 Christmas Boxcar



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- HERSHEY'S HEAVY HAULERS**
- K-811201TT HERSHEY'S "Take a Bite"
 - K-811202TT HERSHEY'S "The Great American Chocolate Bar!"
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THE HUNT FOR VARIATIONS VIII: A ONE OF A KIND BUNGALOW

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

The bungalow was originally a Littletown item. Littletown called it a Cape Code Cottage and it can be found in a wide variety of colors. Most are found with white walls but some can also be found with light yellow walls. When Bachmann produced the bungalow under the Plasticville name it was produced in only two variations. The first is white walls, green doors and windows and a green roof. This version is the hardest to find. Shortly after the green roof the bungalow received a black roof and kept the green doors and windows. Plasticville's bungalows have lights on the front, Littletown's do not. It is assumed that some of very early Plasticville models did not have lights because they used up Littletown stock. The lights are always black and are the same lights found on the split-level house.

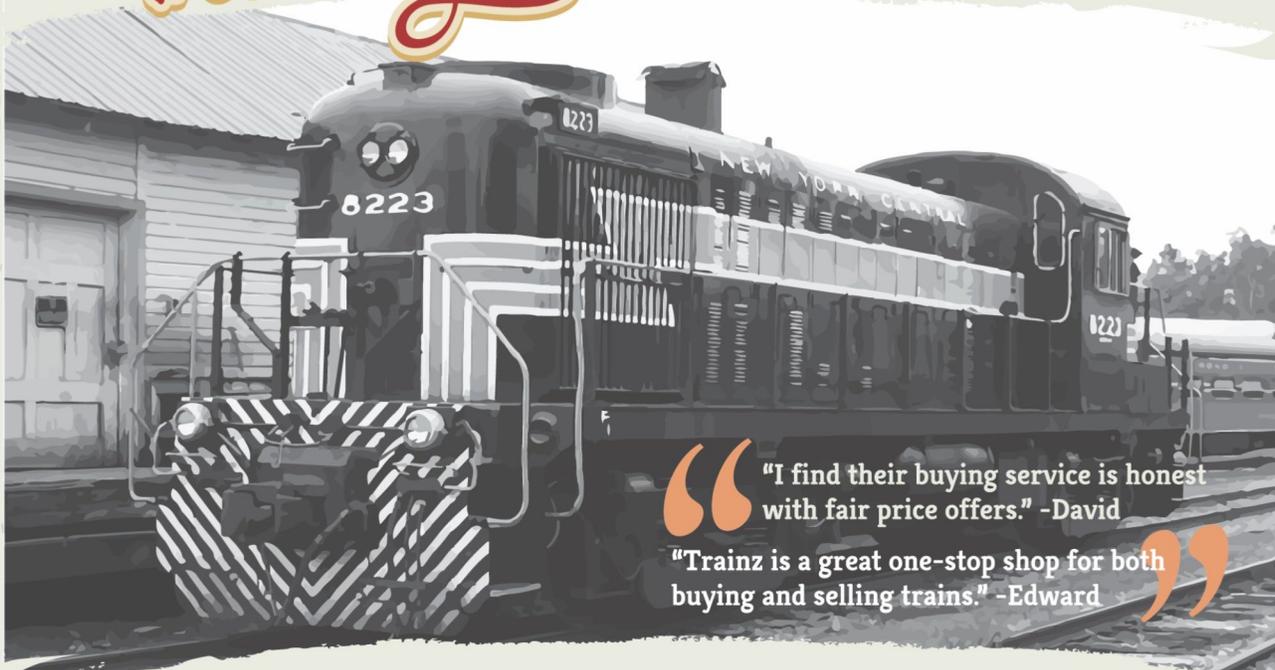
The bungalow shown here has black (or light grey) windows and doors. The color matches the color of the lights and is close to the roof color. This bungalow came from the Bachman factory many years after production stopped. It is assumed to be a test sample. It is very dreary looking so it is not surprising that this version was never mass produced.



202—CAPE COD COTTAGE AND TRELLIS with FIGURES
Cottage is 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " Long, 4" Wide, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " High. Single Roof, Clapboard Walls, Dormer, Doors Open, Curtains on windows. Trellis Fence 5" Long, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " High. With following Figures in Soft Vinyl Plastic—Man with Grip, Bench, Seated Man and Woman, a Boy, a Girl, a Man and Woman Standing. Packed in Color Illustrated Box, 2 Dozen to Carton 12 Lbs.
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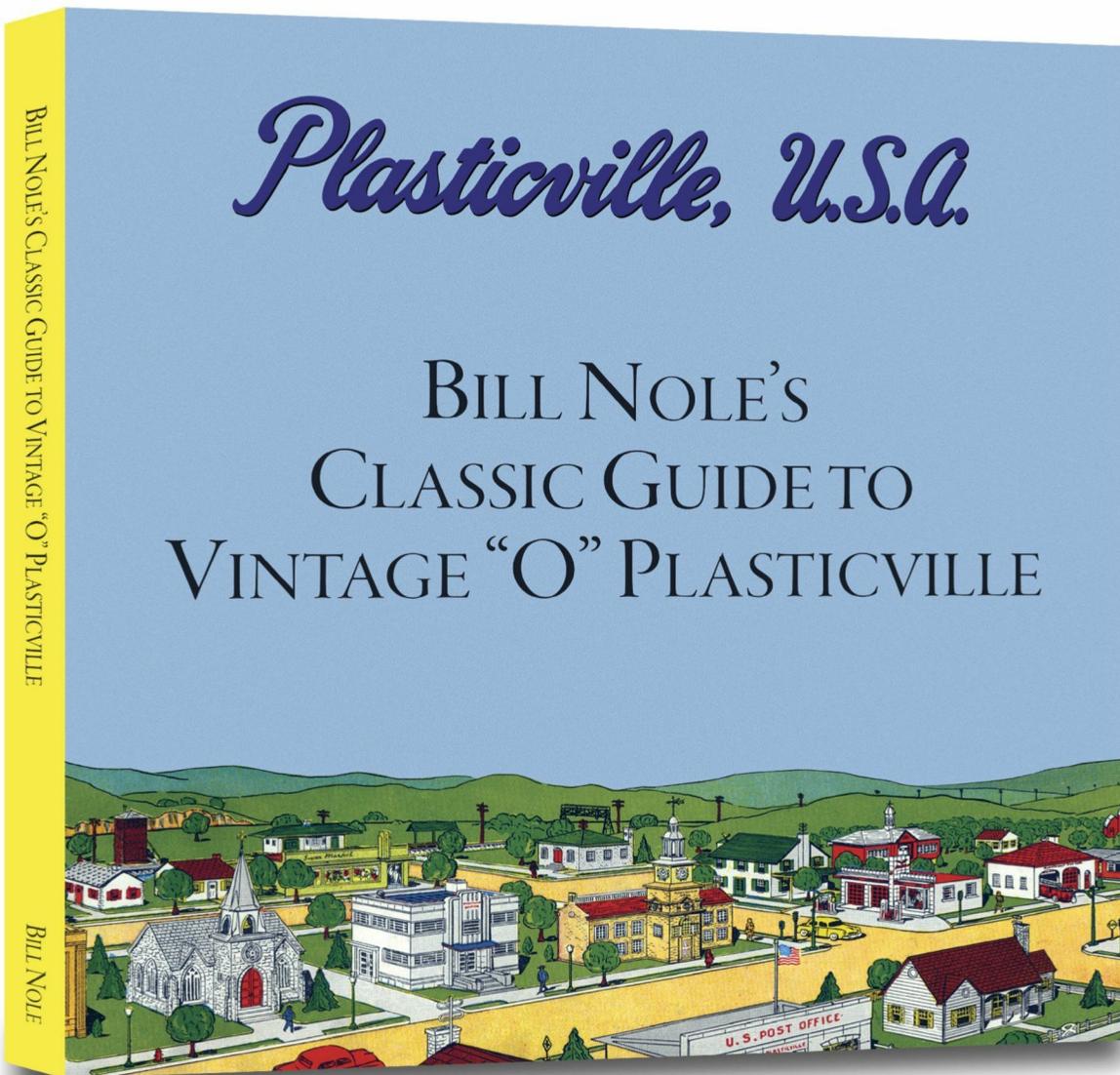
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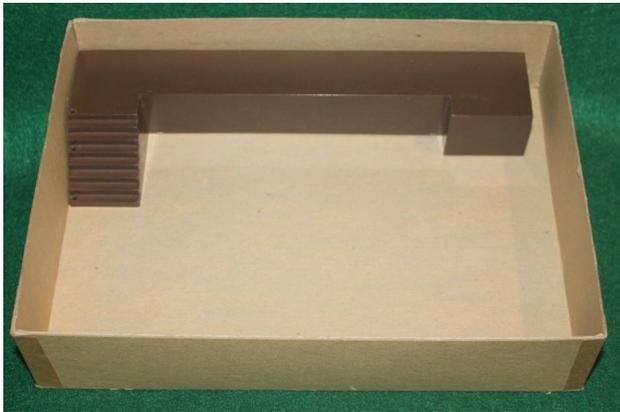
BACK IN THE BOX / A CONTINUING SERIES ON REPACKING PLASTICVILLE

1906 Factory, Version 2

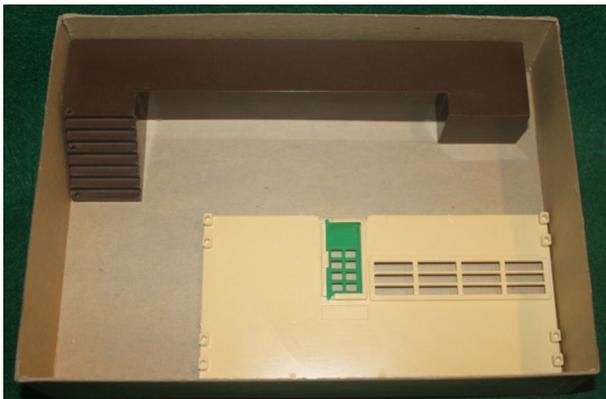
JOHN L. NIEHAUS

This is the first time that I have been able to put a Plasticville piece "Back in the Box" using a second method. Here is that second method for the 1906 factory.

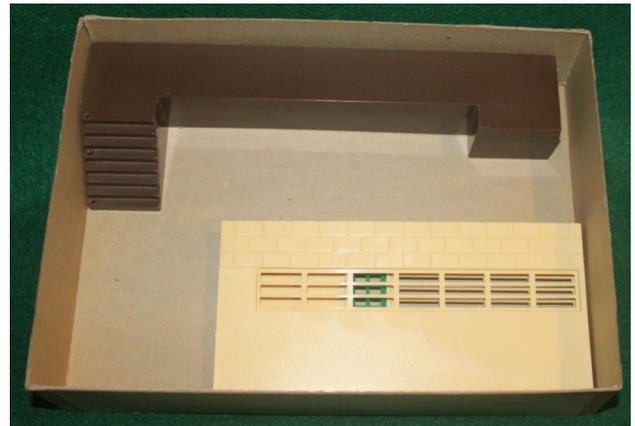
Place the loading dock face up in the left rear corner of the box as shown in photo 1.



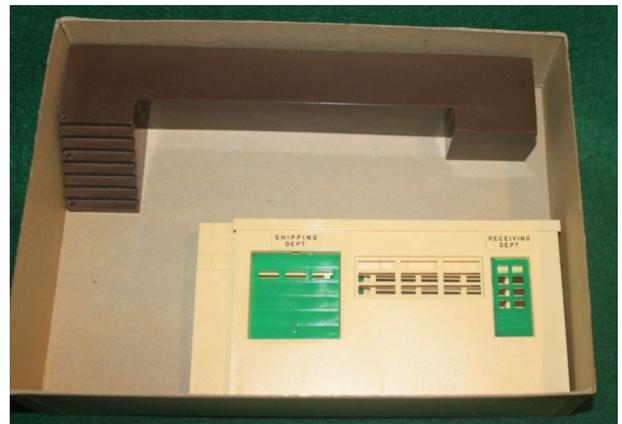
Place the wall with the single door face down in the front right hand corner with its top towards the front of the box as shown in photo 2.



Place the windows only wall face up on top of the previously placed wall with its top towards the front of the box as shown in photo 3.



Place the rear wall face up on top of the previously placed walls with its top facing away from the front of the box as shown in photo 4.



Place the front wall face up on top of the previously placed walls with its top facing away from the front of the box as shown in photo 5.



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Randomly distribute the water tank, tank roof, tank tower, front awning, three chimney pieces, and handrail in the box as shown in photo 6.



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".

Place the roof face down in the box and the tab to the left so that it rests on both the walls and the loading dock as shown in photo 7.

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PRODUCT REVIEW

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

A History of Maine Railroads, Major Bill Kenny, USAF (Ret.), 158 pages, softcover, 6 X 9 format, \$21.99. Published by The History Press. Black & white photos throughout.

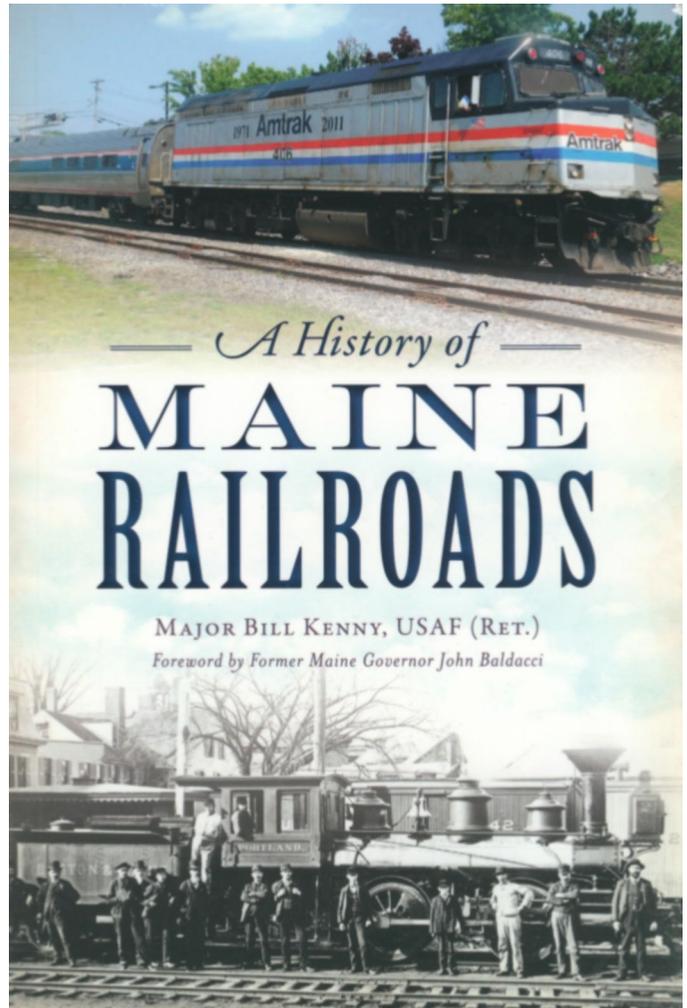
As the title states this is a history of railroads of Maine. The author states in his introduction that he has not included all of the railroads but only a sampling of the many lines that existed at one time or another.

There are fifteen chapters included in the book. The initial chapter is one of the longest and bears the title *Key Players*. It discusses the development and the continuation of the railroads in Maine. It is followed by a chapter discussing the need for railroads in Maine. The primary reason was to bring timber and other goods to Portland, Maine and Boston, MA for shipment by sea. Seven of the chapters are dedicated to specific railroads such as the Boston and Maine and the Grand Trunk. Another chapter discusses the pros and cons of narrow gauge versus standard gauge tracks. The author includes a chapter on electric railroads as well as one on railway post offices. There are five appendices – I will go into detail on these later, a bibliography, and an index in addition to the customary acknowledgments, and introduction. It also contains a foreword by former Maine Governor John Baldacci.

Various railroads in Maine seem to have a corner on “firsts” per this book. One of these firsts is the first railroad bridge between the United States and Canada. Maintenance of the bridge was a shared responsibility between a Maine railroad and a Canadian railroad. There are also mentions of various “seconds”.

The appendices are a wealth of information. They list, respectively, railroad museums and scenic rides, existing railroad stations, railroads in Maine that became part of the Maine Central Railroad, locomotive types, and electric railroads that operated in Maine. The back of this book is a great place to start your research if you are interested in pursuing Maine railroad history.

I found this book to be well researched and very well written. I recommend it if you have any interest in the railroad history of Maine.



A History of Maine Railroads is available from The History Press website. A direct link to the book is: <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467145299>. It is listed at \$21.99. It is listed on Amazon at \$17.19 in paperback and \$9.99 in Kindle format. Barnes & Noble lists it at the publisher’s price of \$21.99.

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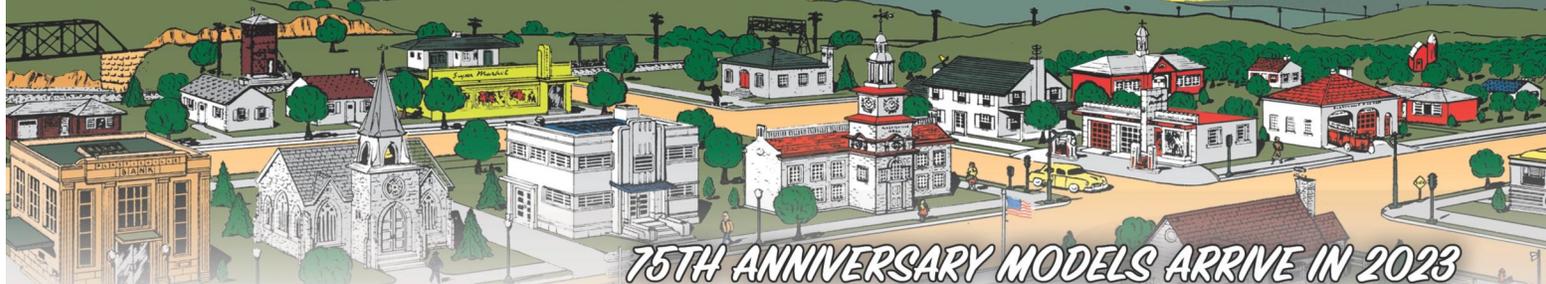
Do you have an idea for an item? Contact John Niehaus at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.

Did You Know?

Recently I received a question about which issue a specific article appeared in. While I am happy to help, there is also a self-help option. On the PCA website hover over the 'Newsletter' tab then pick 'Article



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