



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association
Volume 24 December 2025 Number 3

PLASTICVILLE FOR NEWBIES RETURNS!

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

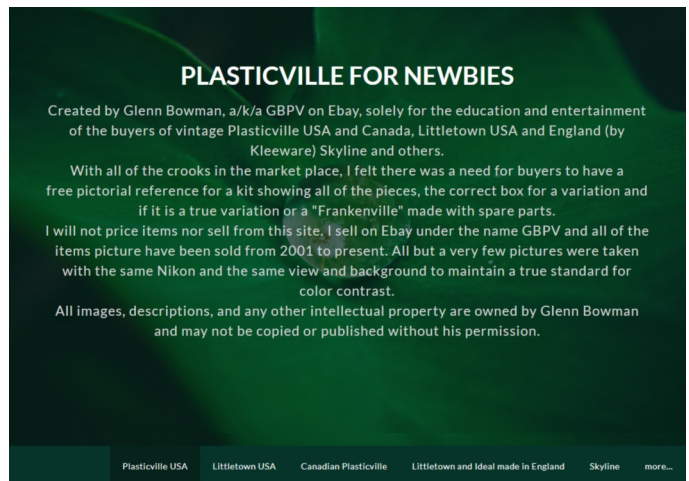
Glenn Bowman, a past president of the PCA, surprised those of us at York by announcing the return of his Plasticville Reference website. The site has been offline for the last year. The site can be found at: <http://www.plasticvillefornewbies.com/>

If you have not visited this website, please check it out. Plasticville for Newbies is the most comprehensive Plasticville website online today, with photos of nearly every variation. Glenn used to sell on eBay, and the images on the website come from his past auctions, held from 2001 to 2024.

Photos span the most common variations, like the light blue and white ranch house, to the rare, like the aqua ranch house. He also has one-of-a-kind items, such as a white signal bridge and a clear cathedral. You will have to navigate around the site to find all of the interesting items and learn about variations you never knew existed.

In addition to Plasticville, there are pages on Littletown, Canadian Plasticville, Kleeware, Skyline, Ideal, Storytown, Amlod, and American Flyer All Aboard.

There is a wealth of information on the site. If you haven't visited before, you are sure to learn something new!



Search

Some rare items.



The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

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www.plasticvilleusa.org

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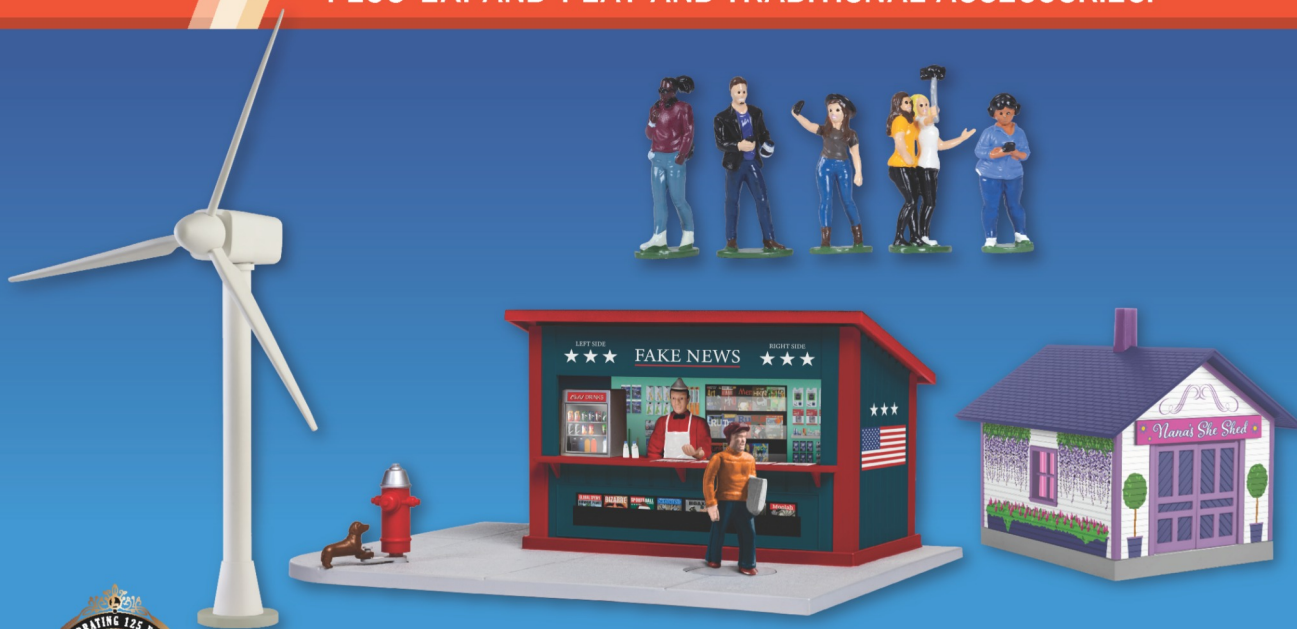
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AN UNKNOWN HOUSE

TOM FRITSCH

I have answered my own question. In the April 2025 *The Villager* (page 9), I presented an unidentified metal cape cod house with plastic windows that I had purchased. A recent visit to a train show solved the mystery. A dealer had the same house in blue, rather than green, for sale along with the box! The box said "No. 102 • METAL RESIDENCE / ILLUMINATED / WHITE with BLUE TRIM / ATLAS TOOL CO. / HILLSIDE, N.J." A search of this on the Internet revealed that the sides were always white but three different color trims were made: No. 101 – red, No. 102 – blue, and No. 103 – green (mine); all had a red chimney. Oddly, the window and door layouts differ by color. The company also made a metal passenger station. Further investigation shows that Atlas Tool Co. is now *Atlas Model Railroad Company, Inc.*, manufacturer and seller of model trains and track.



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MIXED TOY TRAINS IN A RECENT TV AD

lipoflavonoid follow-up

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

I recently had a telephone conversation with Albert Hery of Shreveport, LA regarding detail pieces of the 1956 Frosted Flakes billboards that he was seeking. During our conversation he mentioned a television ad that included a toy train layout. He said that the advertisement was for Lipo-Flavonoid. It is an over the counter dietary supplement in caplet form marketed for tinnitus relief.

With a little bit of research I found the ad online. It is the typical thirty seconds in length. It was still available at <https://www.ispot.tv/ad/ThJQ/lipo-flavonoid-toms-story> as of August 22.

The ad begins with a man showing audio distress with a voiceover noting his issue is with tinnitus. It then breaks to a steam engine approaching the viewer through a tunnel. The tunnel manufacturer can't be determined but the track the engine is on is definitely American Flyer. The ad then breaks to ten seconds of views of the packaged product along with its description.

The product description continues while the man and a young girl view and interact with a toy train layout. Parts of what seems to be a typical light grey Flyer gondola and red caboose pass by in the foreground. What is interesting is the eclectic selection of accessories that I observed in the five seconds that the layout is visible.

Plasticville is represented by a gray roof Suburban Station, a Bank, a Fire House, a red roof with mustard trim Two Story House, and a 45963 Apartment House.

To the far left on the layout there seems to be an American Flyer #774 floodlight tower. A Marx #418 crossing gate can be seen as well as a #3721 Marx Police Station. Not to be left out, Lionel is represented by a #356 Operating Freight Station on the right near the back of the layout and possibly a #154 crossing signal in the left front foreground. I couldn't identify what seems to be a tin freight station in the right front foreground. All in all this is a rather diverse collection of accessories.

The power to the layout seems to be coming from a transformer with two red handles in the left background. eBay key word searches were made in an attempt to determine its manufacturer but to no avail. I am leaning towards it being American Flyer. Try taking a look and tell me what I missed. The TV ad can be viewed at:

<https://www.ispot.tv/ad/ThJQ/lipo-flavonoid-toms-story>

AFTERWORD: I was curious as to what product or service iSpot produced or provided. A portion of their "About" page reads: "... iSpot helps advertisers measure the brand and business impact of TV and streaming advertising, from concept to airing to conversion....".

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Welcome to the final issue of 2025! It is incredible how quickly this year went by. This year wraps up my eleventh year as editor and the twenty-fourth year of *The Villager*. We have an exciting issue this year, featuring two detailed articles: one on Plasticville Citizens and another on Hoffmann. I learned something from each of them. As you saw on the cover, we also have a return of Glenn Bowman's Plasticville For Newbies website, a great resource to the community. I recently found out that the email address linked on the PCA website for the editor died with the new website design. From now on, please get in touch with me directly at:

matt.villager.editor@gmail.com.

Speaking of the new PCA website, have you checked it out? It offers a fresh look, but there are still several issues.

For me, the website is incredibly slow. I also hope there will be time in the future to correct many of the outdated, incorrect, and missing photos. We will see! I hope everyone has a good holiday season and has time to enjoy their trains and villages.

The annual collection of layout photos is missing this year. I only received submissions from one person, so I decided to skip it. If we get submissions next year, it will return!

Matt Harvazinski, *The Villager* Editor

matt.villager.editor@gmail.com

PLASTICVILLE FIGURES

DONALD W. HUOVINEN

Despite being one of the simplest and most under appreciated Plasticville offerings, the Plasticville Figures are arguably the most complex offering with regard to catalog listings, boxes, and components supplied. The Plasticville Figures are an interesting lot. First introduced in the 1953 catalog, Bachmann couldn't decide what to call them, how many of them to include in a box, or if they were to supply the paints.



Photo 1

In 1953 Bachmann introduced "PLASTIC PEOPLE with COLOR KIT PF-4". The box was a rather unattractive one piece box; the figures were unpainted on the box lid (Photo 1). Included in the box (Photo 2) were 16 different people. Also included were a hexagonal paint palette with 6 color pellets, a bottle of painting fluid, a paint brush with PLASTICVILLE U.S.A. printed on the handle and a very colorful sheet with "INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAINTING PLASTICVILLE PEOPLE" (Photo 3). The palette, brush, and painting fluid were fitted into an insert. The painting fluid was sealed with a cork (Photos 4). The price of the accessory was \$0.98. The figures are shown in Photo 5.

In 1954 a new far more colorful two



Photo 2



Photo 3

piece box was introduced (Photo 6). All of the figures were now shown painted on the box top. The contents of the box remained the same however a new, less colorful, instruction sheet for painting the people was included (Photo 7). The new instruction sheet referred to "six color pellets". The price was raised to \$1.00 and it would remain at this same price until 1971 despite all of the changes subsequently made to the set.

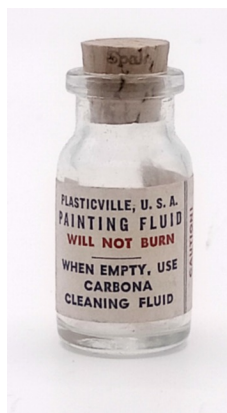


Photo 4

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Photo 5



Photo 6

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAINTING PLASTIC PEOPLE

This Kit offers one a very enjoyable pastime; in fact, it can become a hobby in itself. Anyone taking the time to paint these figures will be greatly rewarded with the new "Life" added to their Plasticville, U.S.A.

1. These Plastic People are molded in flesh color, making it unnecessary to paint the Face, Hands.

2. Clothing and accessories are the only parts to paint, and for such this Kit includes six color pellets—and a bottle of painting fluid.

3. To paint, dip the brush in the fluid and stir onto pigment desired, until a workable consistency is reached; then apply to figure.

4. Paint light colors first, to aid in keeping brush clean.

5. Additional colors can be obtained by mixing any two colors, as follows:

Red & Yellow for Orange Red & Black for Brown
Red & Blue for Purple Black & White for Gray

For orange first paint area with red then follow with coat of yellow. It will be found the red pigment will blend in with the yellow and form the desired shade.

6. Clean brush with the fluid, squeezing out brush with a rag.

7. Allow a minute for each color to dry. This paint has good covering qualities, making it easy to go over any part where a correction is to be made.

8. As an aid in making color selections, refer to the illustration on box lid for suggestions. You'll also have lots of fun making up your own combinations.

When bottle of painting fluid is empty
replace with Bachmann painting fluid and glue.

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Photo 7

In 1955 the catalog now referred to the figures as "PLASTICVILLE CITIZENS", however as the box was unchanged it still referred to the figures as "PLASTIC PEOPLE". The contents remained unchanged however the painting fluid was now in a screw top jar (Photo 8). More importantly, in the 1955 Panoramic Catalog, we are told that "Other than the couple comfortably seated on a park bench (which the set provides) the characters are going places and doing things. Let's meet them..." The

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Photo 8

citizens are identified so we can now know who's who in Plasticville. The figures were identified as a Postman, Newsboy, Visitor, Jr. Miss, Policeman, Clergyman, Couple on Park Bench, Nurse, Milkman, Farmer, Schoolboy, Girl and Doll, Housewife, Serviceman, and Teacher

In 1956 the item number for the figures changed from PF-4 to 1605 in keeping with Plasticville's

change to a "numerical coding system". Other than the change to a number the box and contents remained unchanged. It is interesting to note that in the 1956 Play-Guide the figures were called Plasticville Play-people.



Photo 9

The 1957 catalog heralded the "NEW 1619 PLASTICVILLE CITIZENS". The catalog indicated there were 24 figures including 12 new railroad characters. The catalog illustration and the box top (Photo 9) only show 8 new characters. The additional characters were Littletown figures which Bachmann had recently acquired. Bachmann did not identify the figures but Littletown had previously identified them as a Man with Grip, Man with Hat, Seated Woman, Seated Man, Engineer, Conductor, Brakeman, and Porter. The new figures are shown in Photo 10. As packaged the original 16 Plasticville people were supplied in one cellophane bag and the new Littletown Figures and benches were supplied in another cellophane bag (Photo 11). Of note is that the catalog stated that they could "be painted with any plastic styrene paint" indicating that initially these did not include paints. The colorful 2 piece box refers to the figures as "PLAS-



Photo 10



Photo 11

characters. The lettering on the box (Photo 12) was changed to show paints were included. Finally in 1959 the catalog got it right: 8 railroad characters were included. The catalog listings through 1964 essentially remained unchanged always referring to "6 paint pellets" However at some point during the production run the paint palette was changed to round and now included 8 colors. The instruction sheet was updated to show the kit "includes eight color pellets" (Photo 13). The painting fluid was also changed and was now labeled "BACHMANN STYRENE PAINTING FLUID AND GLUE" (Photo 14).

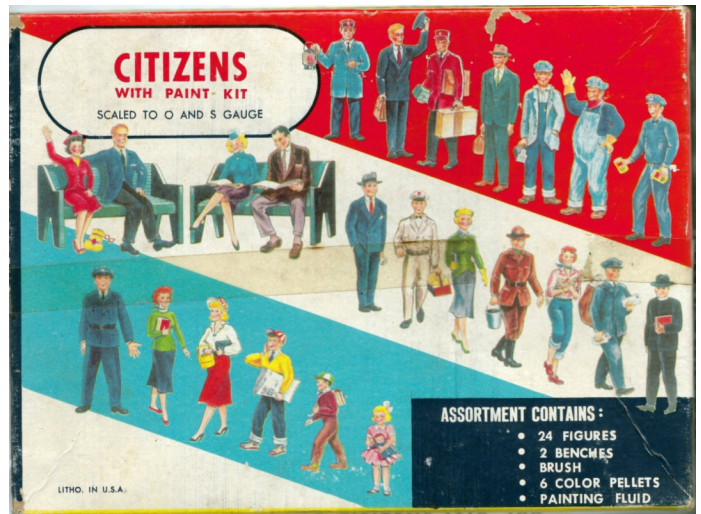


Photo 12

The 1966 Plasticville catalog stated that the 1619 CITIZENS now consisted of an assortment of 32 figures. It also noted that "No paints included". A new colorful 2 piece box (Photo 15) showed 16 figures and stated that the "ASSORTMENT CONTAINS: 32 FIGURES 2 BENCHES". Essentially this assortment was the original assortment doubled up. The figures and benches were packaged in a

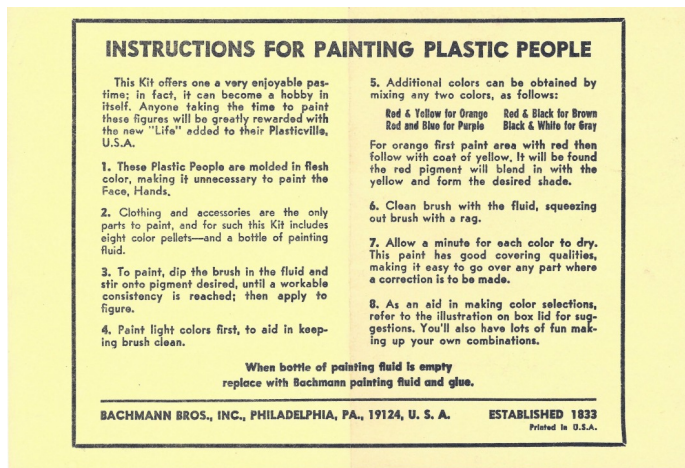


Photo 13
single bag; paint was in fact not included.

In 1971 the number was changed to 1915. A new generic red, white, and blue box was introduced (Photo 16). The item number included on the box front and end panel simply stated "Citizens with Paint (24), 1915:200". Note that the price had increased to \$2.00. And paint was included! This box is interesting as Photo 14 it is known to come with two different contents. The first had 24 figures: the 16 original Plasticville figures and 8 Littletown figures. It is speculat-

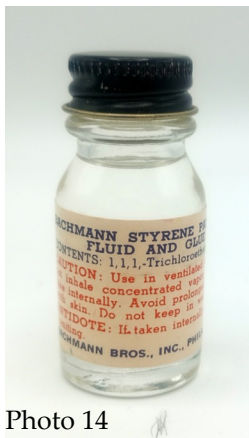


Photo 14



Photo 15

ed that the inclusion of the Littletown figures was to move obsolete inventory as these figures had not been included in a set since 1964. The second, and more common, box contained 32 citizens- the same 32 figures included in the last 1619 box. The figures now were still attached to their sprues, presumably as a cost saving move as it made packaging much simpler. However the box now included



Photo 16



Photo 17

with Paint (32), 1915:200" (Photo 17). The contents were identical to those included in the more common 1915 box from 1971.

The 1975 catalog now shows 16 painted figures. The 1915 came in a new colorful 2 piece box (Photo 18). The new colorful 2 piece box showed only 16 figures on the box. The side panel on the box stated that the "ASSORTMENT CONTAINS: 32 FIGURES with PAINT". The contents were packaged identically: all of the included components were included in one bag, including the sprues for the



Photo 18

figures. There are actually three very similar looking boxes for the colorful 1915 box. The first box had no printing in the lower corners (again refer to Photo 18). The end panel identifies the contents as "CITIZENS 1915-200". And note that the contents were sized for "O-S SCALE".



Photo 19

The second box had "AGES 8 TO ADULT" printed in the lower left corner (Photo 19). The contents were still identified as being "O-S SCALE". Finally the last box had the same basic artwork however the word "UNASSEMBLED" was printed in the lower right corner (Photo 20). The side panel now stated "32 FIGURES (NOT PAINTED) PAINT SET INCLUDED" (Photo 21). The end panel simply identifies the contents as "1915 CITIZENS" (no price shown). More interestingly the contents are now labeled as being "O27 SCALE". In 1978 the price changed to \$3.50 and in 1979 it was raised to \$4.00.



Photo 20

In 1980 the number was changed once again. This time to 1955. The components were now packaged in a red and white box. (Photo 22) Although the catalog shows a paint pallet included with the figures it is believed that paint cups were now included as the illustration on the box shows the paint cups.

The 1982 catalog number was changed to 66-1955. The components were unchanged; only the number on the box was changed. Although going unpriced in the catalogs from 1980-1982, in 1983 the price was raised to \$6.00.



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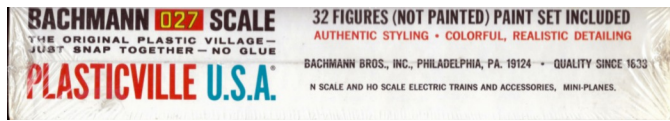


Photo 21



Photo 24



Photo 22

In 1987 the illustration in the catalog changed to show the inclusion of five paint cups. The figures were again shown unpainted. The price also jumped to \$9.00. In 1988 and 1989 the same illustrations were used however there was no price shown.

In 1990 the catalog illustration for the 66-1955 32 Figures with Paints was over stamped with "NOT AVAILABLE 1990". It is believed this was due to paint supplier issues as in 1990 all of the items Bachmann produced which required paint, the HO 45-2715 Roadside Stand With Paints, HO 45-2712 Figures With Paints as well as the O 66-1955 32 Figures With Paints were not available. The same was true in 1991. In 1992 the 65-1955 32 Figures with Paints was again available at the same price, \$9.00. However in 1993 the same three items requiring paint were again not available. The figures were not shown in the 1994 and 1995 catalogs. No O gauge items were shown in the 1996 catalog.



Photo 23

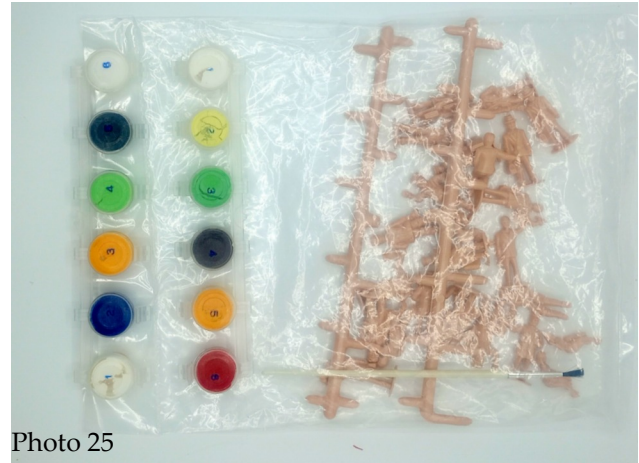


Photo 25

1997 was Plasticville's 50th Anniversary. The catalog showed Item No. 45988, RAILROAD PEOPLE with paint and brush for \$12.00. The catalog illustration shows 23 painted figures and two 6-piece paint cups. However there is no indication of how many figures were actually included. The figures were boxed in the generic Blue Anniversary Box with the notation "RAILROAD PEOPLE WITH PAINT AND PAINTBRUSH" (Photos 23 and 24). Incredibly, after a 26 year hiatus, the Littletown railroad figures have returned! There were 24 figures included: three each of the eight railroad figures. The figures with included sprues, and a brush were packaged in a plastic bag. Photo 25 shows the box contents. There were two 6-piece paint cups loosely included in the box. There was no instruction sheet included. Interestingly there were also no benches for the seated figures to sit on! The box states the components were "Made in USA".



Photo 26



Photo 27

1998 was the first year that Plasticville was made in China. The Blue Anniversary box now stated that the items were "Made in China". The catalog price was increased to \$13.00. The same 24 figures were included however the packaging was changed. All of the components were now included in a single plastic bag. The figures were now separate; no sprues were included. Also there was only one 6-piece set of paint cups. Included with the paint cups was a notice to "Please add some thinner to the paint if it

is too thick or dried". Again there was no instruction sheet nor benches for the seated figures. Photo 26 shows the bag contents. In 1999 the people were again shown but this time with no price. In 2000 the price raised again, this time to \$14.00. The catalog illustration and price would remain unchanged through 2002.

In 2003 Bachmann introduced the generic Green Box. The Railroad People with Paint & Brush, priced at \$14.00 was now packaged in the new box. The box and label are shown in Photos 27 and 28. Box contents were identical to previous years' China production.

2004 was the last year the people were shown in the catalog. A quiet end to a wonderful 52 year run.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the wonderful assistance provided by Michaela Feltman, TCA Librarian, for her help in researching the Bachmann catalogs. This article would not have been possible without her help.

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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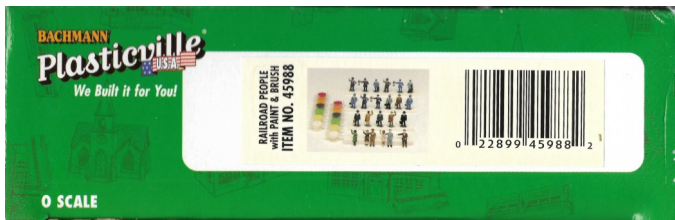


Photo 28

Plasticville Collectors Association Anniversary Pieces

 <p>5th Anniversary 336 total pieces made \$85 plus shipping</p>	 <p>10th Anniversary 240 total pieces made \$100 plus shipping only 6 remaining</p>	 <p>20th Anniversary 264 total pieces made \$65 plus shipping</p>
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No Box Kits, Complete

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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)

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

HOFFMANN LITTLE TOWN PLANNER

JIM BENNETT

On Christmas morning, 1962, I was the lucky recipient of an Athearn HO-scale Baltimore & Ohio passenger train (that used rubber bands around a driveshaft to power the axles!) and a Hoffman Little Town Planner filled with bright, multi-colored plastic houses. I was mesmerized by the vast array of beautiful structures and their abundance of accessories. It was as colorful and enticing as a penny gumball machine. I think of it as the quintessential Plastic Village. I no longer have the train set, but I do still have that Little Town Planner (Photo 1).



Photo 1

The Andreas Hoffmann company produced Little Town Planner sets, and many, many other kits and structures, from the Winter of 1959 till 1963, when FALLER of Germany acquired them. Hoffmann was based in Braunau, on the River Inn, in Austria (coincidentally, the same town where Adolf Hitler was born). Their Town Planner products can be identified by the words "Made in Austria" and the Hoffmann pyramid-shaped logo molded on the bottom of the Little Town Planner house bases (Photo 2). The Churches (the ones I have seen in the Planner sets) are not branded. In 1963, they started being manufactured in Germany, and the house bases were branded "M. I. W. Germany" (i.e., Made in West Germany). They specified "W" for West Germany because it was important, during that Cold War time period of anti-Soviet animosity, for German manufacturers who wished to sell their goods overseas, to distance themselves as much as possible from

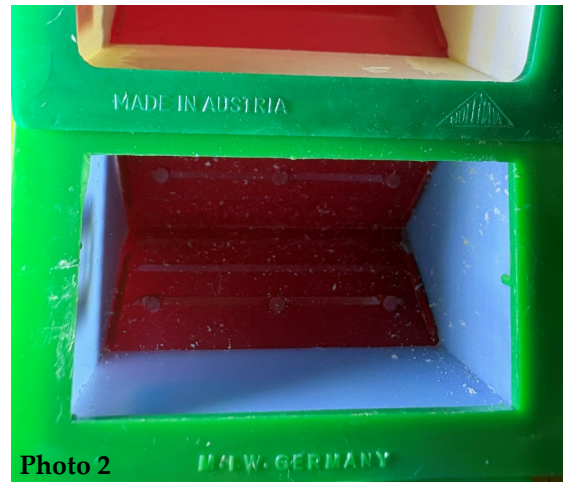


Photo 2

Communist controlled East Germany (Photo 2). After a while, there was no branding at all to indicate where or by whom they were made, so they may still have been produced by Faller, or by FALLER's "Hobby" product line, which specialized in inexpensive, easy-to-build, entry-level kits and products. (See Photo 3 for the similarities between the Hoffmann Logo and Fallers Hobby Logo) or by whatever company leased or borrowed the molds (similar to what



Photo 3

Canadian Plasticville or Kleeware Littletown did), or they may have been knock-offs. In Photo 4, you can see houses with dormers, houses with no rear window, a house with a diamond window to the left of the door, churches with shorter steeples on the opposite side of the door, and a Church with a cross and clock. These aren't Hoffman, and



Photo 4



Photo 5

there's no branding on them. By the time the end of the decade rolled around, they were being produced in Singapore.

LITTLE TOWN PLANNER

The Little Town Planner set (Photo 1) contains eight multi-colored houses, one Church, one gas station, four vehicles, six fruit trees, six pine trees, twelve fence pieces, and six (way too tall) road signs. Apart from being a play toy or model railroad scenery, it was also intended to be an instructional aid to help children learn traffic safety. The two-part box is 14" x 8" x 2.5". The box top has a photograph of three happy children playing with the set. The inside of the box has compartments for the buildings and all the accessories. There was a play mat with streets available to use with the Town Planner, but it is very rare, and I don't have one to show you (wish I did).

VILLAGE IN A BAG

The "Village in a Bag" (which came in a box?) was a bare bones, less expensive alternative to the Little Town Planner. It contained one Church and four houses secured in a clear



Photo 6

plastic bag that was presented in a box. Note that there are two different depictions shown on the boxes for "Village in a Bag" (Photo 5); The bottom box shows the houses without fencing (like the ones in the Town Planner set) and the top one shows two of the houses with fencing, one with a separate fence piece beside it and one with a broader base and fencing attached to it. I've never seen the Village in a bag come with fenced houses (although Hoff-



Photo 7



Photo 8

mann did make them for individual sale, see Photo 6). In "The Village in a Bag" from Singapore (Photos 7 and 8), you can see the header that reads "Made in Singapore" in the upper-right corner. The lower, left corner says the International Hobby Corporation of Philadelphia, PA, imported them. The bottom of the House base and the bottom of the Church base were now branded "Made in Singapore" (Photo 9). This Singapore Church is the only Church of this style that I've seen branded. Note also that the Singapore Church has the steeple on the side opposite the front door.

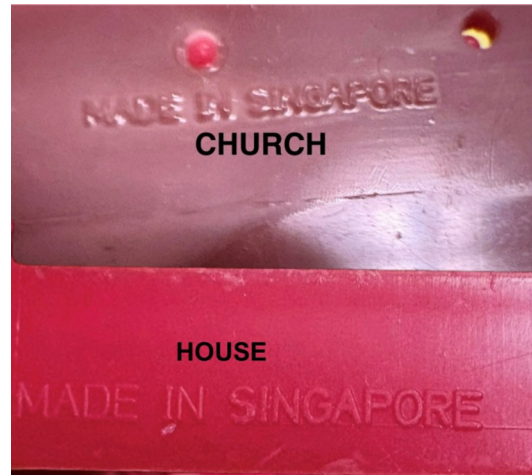


Photo 9

BUILD YOUR OWN

Another Hoffmann set akin to the Town Planner is "Village Build-Up" (i.e., build your own). This was a build-it-yourself model kit for those hobbyists who enjoy constructing their own structures (Photos 10 and 11). Note the box top of the Build your own kit has the same photo as the Village in a bag with the fences (see Photo 5). The build-your-own model kit does include some fence pieces, but there's no wide base like shown in the box photo (leastways not in the kit I possess). But after 60+ years out there, who's to say it didn't originally have one?



Photo 10



Photo 11

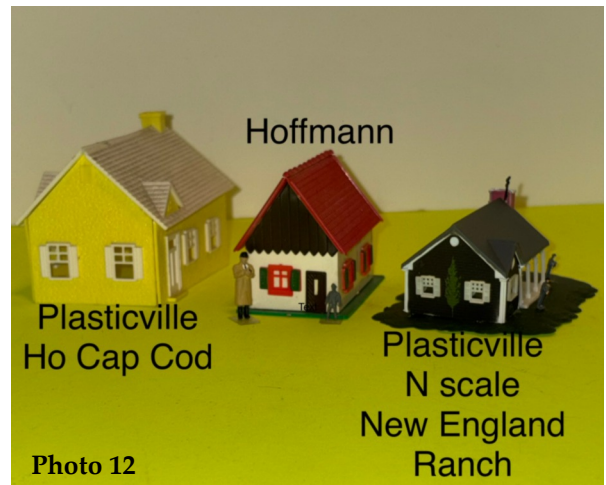


Photo 12

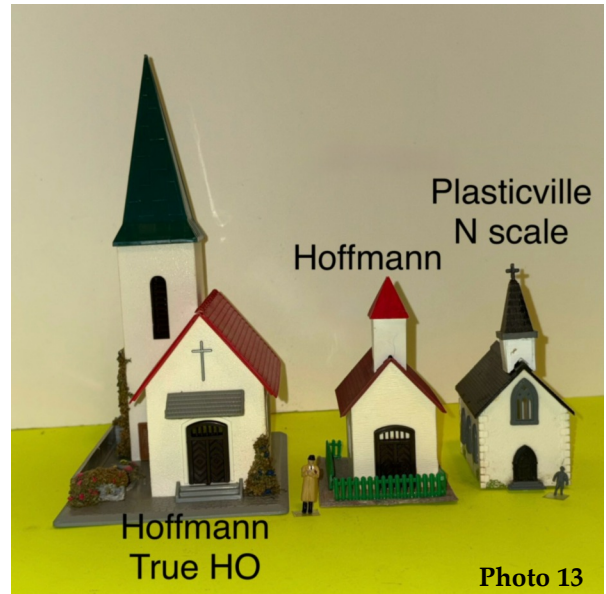


Photo 13

These structures are touted as being HO, but they actually appear to be somewhere between HO and N scale. I compared the houses (photo 12) and the churches (photo 13) to Plasticville HO- and N-scale structures. As you can see from the HO- and N-scale figures, the Hoffmann house has an N-scale door, and the Hoffmann Church has an HO-scale door. I used a Hoffmann HO Church from the Town Planner set for the comparison. The overall height of the structures seems closer to N scale as well.

The other Hoffmann structures I have aren't like the City Planner ones (Photo 14). These ARE really HO scale (although most of the doors still appear to be N scale). Hoffmann produced a large number of ornate buildings and houses, both pre-made and model kits.

REFERENCES

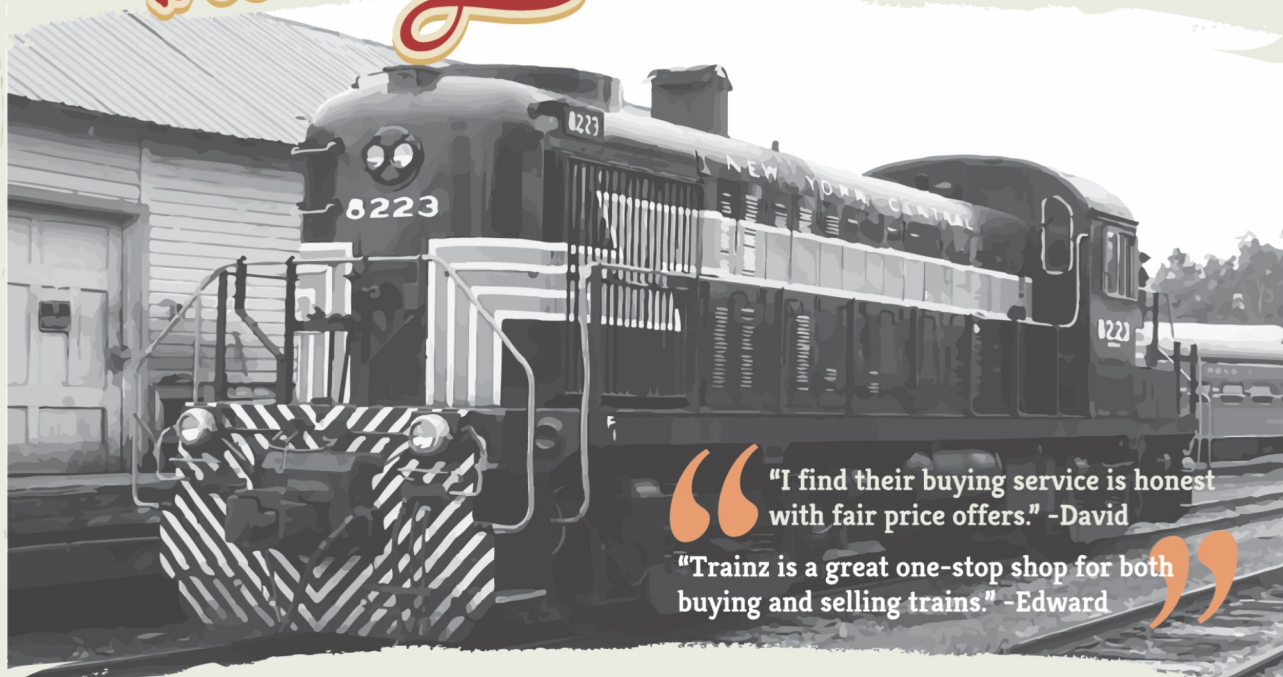
If you desire more detailed information about Hoffmann products (much, much more), there is an excellent, four-part article by Stephen Paul Hardy, Karl Schnelle, and Thomas Howard appearing in the June, July, August & September 2023 issues of Model Auto Review Online (MAR Online) under Archives (<https://www.maronline.org.uk>). There is also a highly informa-

tive, four-page magazine article in the Christmas 2017 Issue of Model Collector magazine by Stephen Paul Hardy (this guy is the Guru of all things Hoffmann!). I have the magazine itself. I tried to find it online, but I didn't see it. The magazine went out of business in May of 2020 (much to the chagrin of model car collectors). If you try to search for it, be very careful of a site that'll pop up called model-collector (note the hyphen). It's a phishing scam! Don't go there! If anyone would like to see the Model Collector Magazine article, I'll (try to remember to) bring it to the next York show.



Photo 14

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WHO'S WHO IN PLASTICVILLE

ROBERT KOCAN

Mystery solved! DB Cooper had been taking it on the lam in Plasticville since November 1971. He was living modestly in a New England Rancher. Fortunately, for him the FBI agents in town are focused on another case.



FBI agents, Fox Mulder and Dana Scully are questioning local Plasticville residents on the whereabouts of an alien life form. They received a tip he was spotted near a Ranch House along the east bound tracks. Unfortunately, for them the Cigarette Smoking Man beat them to the scene.



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



WHAT ARE READERS SAYING

I don't care for the new format of the website. There are too many windows. I think you should go back to the old format it was easier to navigate and graphics looked better. Anthony Pagano

Unfortunately we cannot go back to the old format. The software used to create and maintain the old website for over 20 years has become obsolete. We are working with a new web person and will take into accounts any suggestions or concerns that one may have. We are aware that photos of some pieces got "lost in the shuffle". We are working to get those back on the website. We ask your patience with this process.

Some of you may still have had trouble emailing villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org. Hopefully, that will be corrected. If not, you can always reach me at matt.villager.editor@gmail.com. Matt Harvazinski

The email address was an alias used on our old website that redirected any emails sent from it to matt.villager.editor@gmail.com. Our new website does not have that capability. Please use Matt's Gmail address previously mentioned.


You may also use the CONTACT PCA link off our new home page. All email directed to our editor through that page will be forwarded to him.

The N scale buildings in Jim Bennett's article were made by the Danish company Heljan. These were part of Bachmann's Silver Series as he mentions. All of the O/S and HO Silver Series pieces were also made by Heljan.

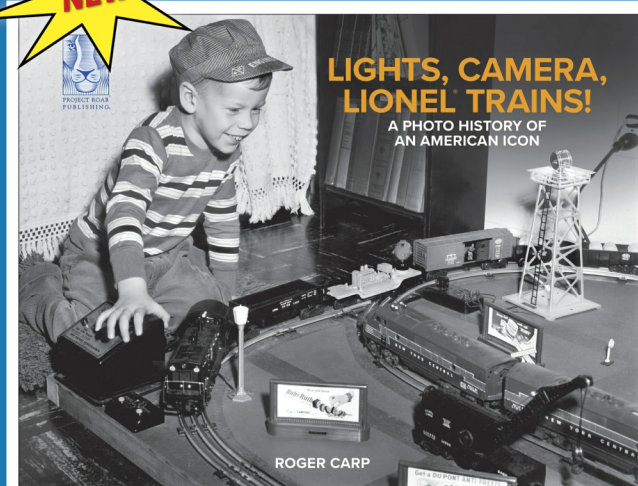
Jim mentions using diagonal cutter or a hobby knife to remove the pieces from their sprues. A third option would be to use a hobbyist's sprue cutter. Most models have a flat side in order to get the blade as close as possible to the part being removed. John Niehaus

Does anyone know if the Turnpike toll structure in HO scale? Mike Hmel

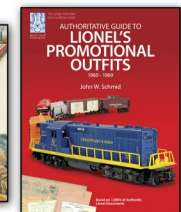
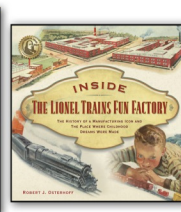
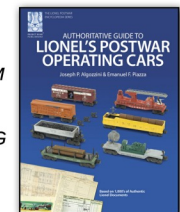
I have an extensive collection of Plasticville catalogs. The O-S Turnpike Interchange was introduced in the 1956 catalog. I researched the HO catalogs from 1956 through 1960 and did not find a listing for an HO version. Thus, I can probably say with a good measure of certainty that an HO version of the O-S Turnpike Exchange was never made. John Niehaus



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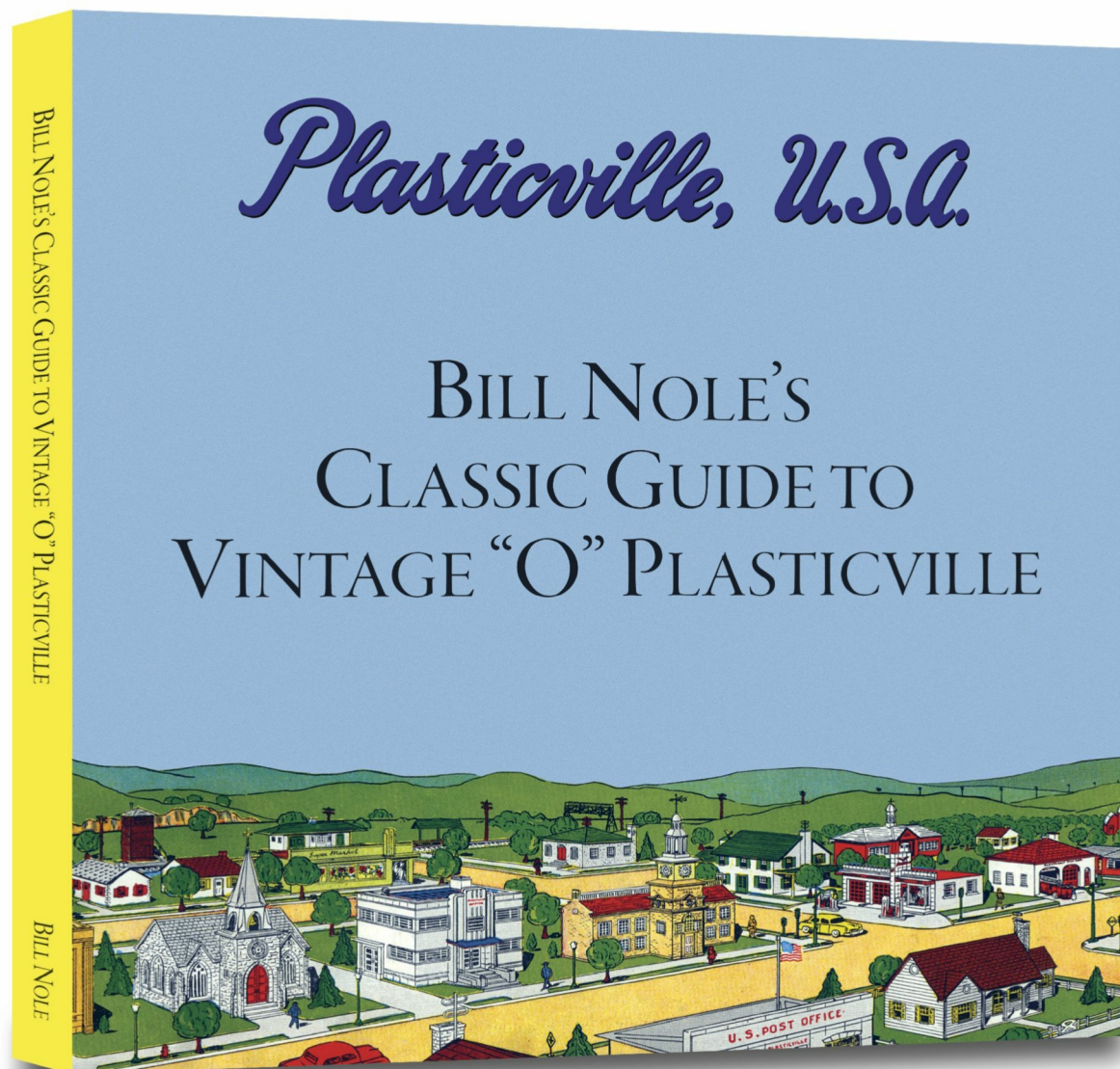
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BACK IN THE BOX / A CONTINUING SERIES ON REPACKING PLASTICVILLE

PD-3 Police Station

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

It has been a very busy time for me since my August *Back In The Box* offering so this is going to be one that is fairly simple but still has parts that need some protection. This is mainly true of the bars on the windows of this piece as well as the lights.

Place the longer wall with the chimney extension face down with its base touching the back wall of the box. Place the short wall with the chimney extension face up directly over the longer wall with the chimney extension



on top of the longer wall as shown in photo 1.

Place the remaining wall face up with the bottom touching the back of the box and the left side touching the right hand wall of the box as shown in photo 2



Place the six small pieces in the bottom of the box, not on the walls, as shown in photo 3.



Place the front wall face down with the bottom of the wall touching the front wall of the box as shown on photo 4. Placing the wall in this manner protects the bars on the windows and acts to prevent the small parts from falling out of the box.



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Place the roof in face side up in the with the cutout for the chimney in either the upper right or lower left hand corner as shown in photo 5.



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".

Doug Wolff
Owner



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THE YORK REPORT

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

The PCA met at the usual time, Friday at 11 AM in the orange hall. We had a smaller-than-usual turnout this year. We had a brief show-and-tell period. James Farace bought an American Flyer Cedar Hill Junction building. The building is a repainted Plasticville switch tower that was glued together and sold by American Flyer. Nick Ivanoff brought his red, blue, and green Atlas Tool Co. metal houses that were featured in the August newsletter. Don Huovinen brought "fat" citizens from the 1997 relaunch of Plasticville. The "fat" citizens, or railroad people, were originally Littletown people. I showed a flag that was misprinted on one side. Glenn Bowman brought a 1603 Cape Code marked "blue". What made it extra interesting was that the locator pins were large (like the older kits).

We had some discussion about when the 1852 box moved from O-S to O-27 at the top, and when the "For ages 8 to adult" was added to the bottom of the box. We finished the meeting with a raffle for white and brown shrubs generously donated by Bill Nole.

Around the meet, there was plenty of Plasticville. Prices ranged from real bargains to crazy high. One seller had four red roof post offices! By the end of the day on Thurs-

day, all of them had been sold. It is unusual to see one, let alone four, at the same table.



American Flyer Cedar Hill Junction, sold as 590 or 23590 from 1955 - 1959.

PRODUCT REVIEW

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

Green Mountain, Iowa's Deadliest Train Wreck, Scott Foens, 160 pages, softcover, 6 X 9 format, \$29.95. Published by South Platte Press. Numerous black and white photographs and diagrams are featured throughout.

I happened to be at a recent toy train show, where the author was promoting this book. As I have been a resident of the state of Iowa for over 40 years, I decided to procure a copy. I am pleased to say that I was not disappointed in his work.

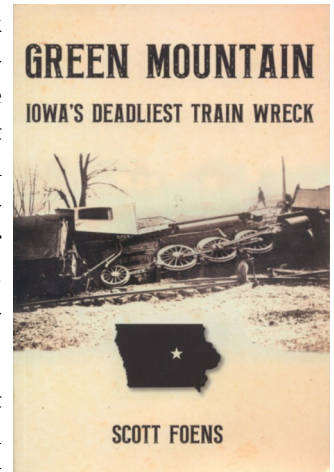
As with most books, this book begins with Acknowledgments and an Introduction. Nine chapters follow those. The author concludes the book with an Epilogue, a list of fatalities, a twenty-page bibliography, and an index.

I have read and reviewed other books written about specific train wrecks. This book tops them in the amount of detail. Not only does the author describe the actual wreck, but he goes well beyond that. The first three chapters describe the circumstances that led up to the actual wreck. This includes the reason why the train, actually two trains, destined for the same city had to be rerouted over the tracks of two other railroads.

A significant plus of this book is the inclusion of a short biography for many of those who lost their lives. I have not found this type of detail in other books on the same subject. Not only does the author include those biographies, but also those of many different players in this tragedy.

This is, by far, one of the best books that I have read on a specific train wreck. I highly recommend it even if you are not an Iowan.

Green Mountain, Iowa's Deadliest Train Wreck is available from South Platte Press at southplattepress.com for the noted \$29.95. I also found it on a website with the name ronsbooks.com for \$27.75. Another website, arizonahobbies.com lists it for \$25.95. It was not listed on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or Hamilton Books.



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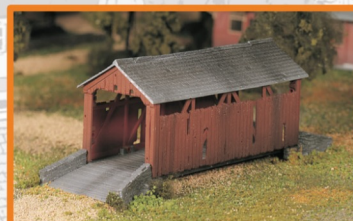


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