



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 17

November 2018

Number 4

PLASTICVILLE PHONE BOOTHS

MICHAEL MARMER #10-635

I was pleasantly surprised to see the November 2017 edition of The Villager having a front page article about the Plasticville phone booths. I really did not know much about the history of these phone booths, when they came out and how they were sold as a separate item for 29¢ retail. I knew that some of these phone booths were glued, but I did not know that is the way they came, from the manufacturer.

But the main reason I am writing about this article, is because when I first joined the TCA in 1992 and went to my first York train show, my wife Linda was on a tear to find as many phone booths, as she could. You see, Classic Toy Trains had an article about a very large American Flyer layout, and it was full of Plasticville buildings and each building had a phone booth. My wife does read CTT and is very much into trains, model and real.

We were going to make an American Flyer layout one day and we too, wanted phone booths at each of the buildings to be, on the layout. So, we, while searching for American Flyer trains, were searching for the elusive Plasticville phone booth, maybe due to this article. In the 9 halls at York we searched high and low for the phone booth and we only came up with 4 at a price of 35 dollars each. They were very scarce and we took them. 140 dollars for four phone booths that sold for about 29 cents in 1959!

We did not get the layout started until 2007, 15 years later! But by the time we did get the layout going, we had 23 phone booths. As for the price, it plummeted to where they were \$5, and now in the TCA newsletter, someone is selling them 3 for ten dollars. Of course these are the new editions made. But I think even the original phone booths fell in price drastically.

But today, we laugh about paying 35 dollars each for the first four phone booths for the layout, as it's only money spent 26 years ago. But we have great memories of doing the search, I can still remember one table where we got one of the phone booths at York in 1992.

Phone booths were still hard to find, for a few years after 1992, but then, the flood gates opened up with many to be found.

I have a picture of some of the phone booths, with each building, under our Christmas tree. I took them off the layout for Christmas and one of them is the first of four we bought with the price tag still on it for 35 dollars! I do have a phone booth with the original price tag on it, as it was 29 cents, just like it was mentioned in the article. It does have a rip on the price, probably done by a seller. The store name was Neisner's. I googled Neisner's and I see it was a very big chain of 5 and 10 stores, dating to 1911 in Rochester, NY. They became the Big N in the 60s and went out of business in the 70s.



So, my layout was finished in 2012, as my Plasticville Frosty Bar was featured in a comic strip, Zippy, and with the 23 phone booths on the layout, there is no cellphone service. The picture I submitted with these of our Christmas Village with all the Plasticville phone booths, shows a line of snow people waiting to use a phone booth, although one could have walked or rolled over to an unoccupied phone booth. How do snow people move about?

And that is my story about my experience with the Plasticville phone booths, as it was a fun search for all 17 phone booths, currently on the layout. I think I need to get a few more for the layout!

The Villager

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www.plasticvilleusa.org

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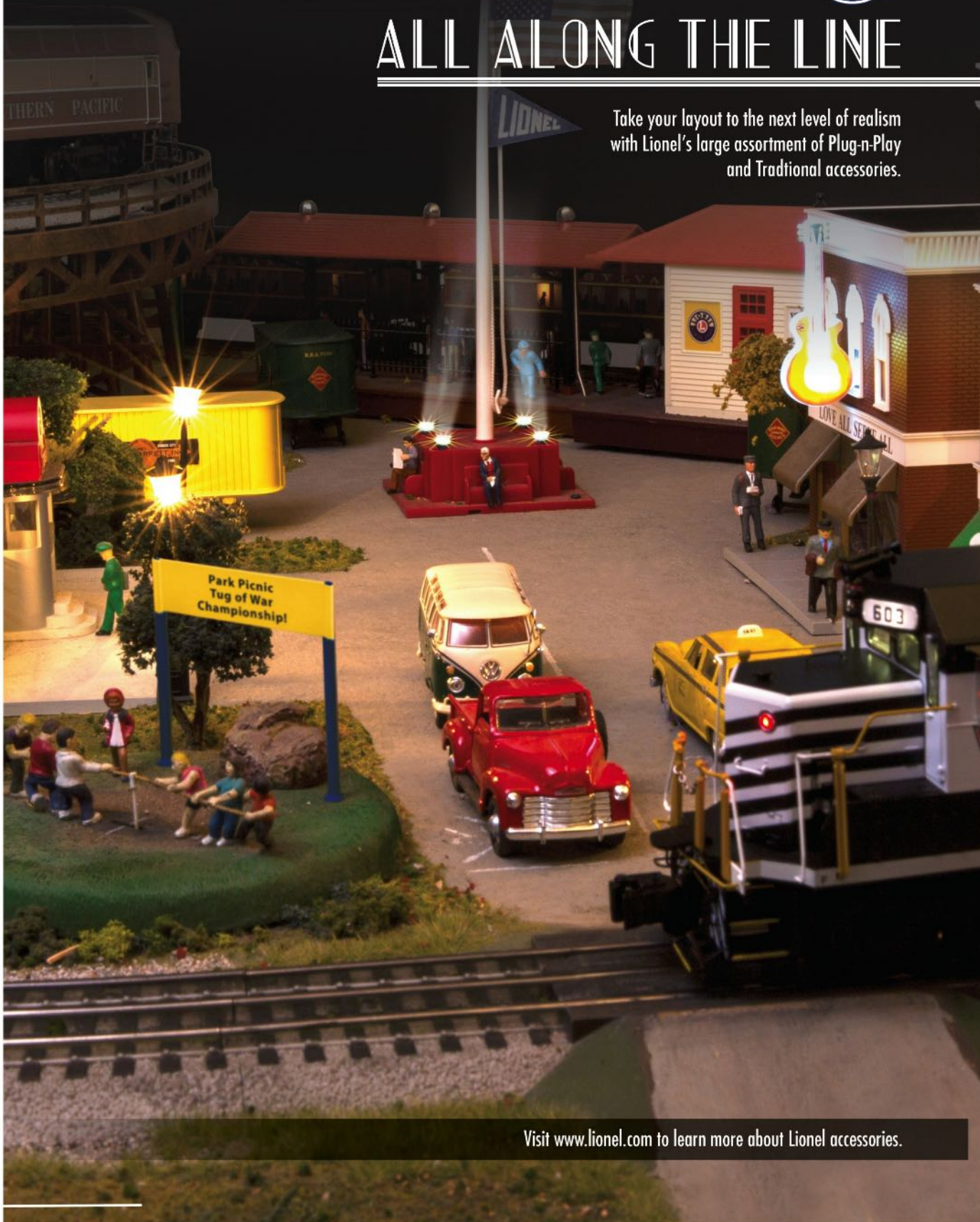
Newsletter Editor: Matthew Harvazinski

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



When I watch the "American Pickers" on TV, a thing that occurs to me over and over is, "How in the world do SO many people have SO much money that they have filled warehouses or dozens of out buildings with stuff?" (Remember comedian George Carlin's bit on "stuff"?) When does "collecting" become an obsession, or a disease? I know, I'm writing this in the newsletter of a collecting organization. But I wonder whether, if I had the unlimited resources, would my house be busting at the seams?

Where am I going with this? Follow along, please. I learned early on that collecting can have natural barriers. I was seriously collecting American Flyer 900 series freight cars until I learned there were certain items that were unobtainable because of rarity or price, and usually both. Unless I won the lottery (I hear you have to play to win) or the Publisher's Clearing House, my collection never was going to be complete – meaning one of each, as a starter. Plasticville collecting is a little more reasonable, though there are those rare variations that are going to be missing from most people's collections. Gray siren firehouse (not to mention RED firehouse!), marbled shacks, autumn trees, Davey Crocket's cabin, etc. – some are rarer than others, and all (unless found in a yard or estate sale) can get pricey.

And eBay, in my thinking, has escalated this, because there is no price ceiling, which means deep pockets will almost always win the day. Sometimes I will "watch" items just to find out what they ultimately sell for. On occasion I have bid what for me would even be unreasonable, only to find out I wasn't even in the game. Which is why I decided a while ago that my Plasticville collection was never going to be "one of each variation of each item." I have limited my collecting interests to certain buildings that I like; for interest, my article on the Dairy Barn a few issues back reveals part of my strategy.

My further strategy, which may not occur to many of you, is that if I see a unique item (like the HO Monopoly jail I shared a few issues back), I will purchase it for the purpose of documenting it for the PCA. I have a backlog of photos I need to get to our secretary of things that are not, at this point, documented on the website (sorry, John, still promise to get them to you -- which, as you may recall, I believe should be THE go-to place for all things Plasticville). Example: years ago, before the PCA, I found a gas station with "Cheltenham" stickers. Many of you know about it and may have one now, but at the time, the best Plasticville resource, the Iron Horse publication, was not aware of the item. So I shared it with them, including documentation. That's the kind of working together we can do as PCA members, too.

And here is where issues collide. Recently on eBay there was a color variation of an item not documented in most sources. I wanted the item so I could document it both on the website and in this newsletter – and, sure, for my collection, too. So I went "big" for me – only to be thwarted by someone who used the bidding style of making an outrageously high bid, because they obviously had the pockets to do so. What is frustrating about this is that I have watched this happen several times, but then never see an article submitted to this newsletter about that item. In other words, to my way of thinking, we all lose out. Now I know not everyone who purchases Plasticville on eBay is part of our association. But let me simply say this: if YOU are one of those persons who goes outrageously big on very rare or undocumented Plasticville (or Littletown or Kleeware or other) items, please consider sharing that item with the rest of us. That way our common knowledge of the hobby increases, and we all win. And admit it: one of the interesting facets of this newsletter is the rare/unidentified/unknown items that you all share. Let's keep it that way.

Chris Matthy
PCA President

EDITOR'S COLUMN



It finally feels like fall, the temperatures dropped into the mid-60's today as I sat down to put together the Newsletter. This was one of my fastest issues to put together because of all the great content I had available from members. Please continue to send me articles as my supply has dwindled quickly.

I would like to comment on a point that Chris raised in his article above about the price of rare items. I too have watched these items but I don't find the prices to be outrageous, I have a different view. How do you price what could be a one of a kind item? For the collector that already has almost everything these are exactly the items to go after. And while several hundred dollars may seem like a lot, it may be one of the only new buildings that they are able to add to their collection each year.

I too would love to see more articles about these rare items, but understand why some individuals choose to remain private about their collections contents, and the prices they paid. I

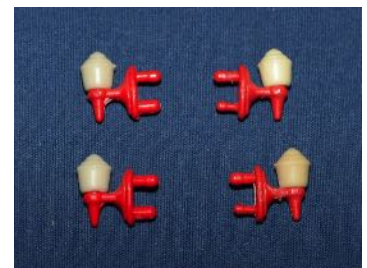
would offer that I can help anyone publish an article anonymously. If you are willing to supply photos and text I can help to formulate the article without sharing your name.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday season this year, see you next year in *The Villager*!

Matt Harvazinski, *The Villager* Editor
villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org
4115 W. Ave. J7 Lancaster CA, 93536

LIGHTS!

Did you ever notice lights come with "Large" and "Small" Pins, early kits used the very fragile small pins, pictured on the right. Later kits used the lights on the left.



PROPOSED MEMBERS

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association as of July 1, 2018. The names of all proposed members must be published for the review of the general membership before being accepted as members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be permanently added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls on December 31, 2018 if no objection to such action is received prior to that date.

- #1049 Vincent P Majoney, Stratford, CT
- #1050 Nicholas J Ivanoff, Seymour, CT
- #1051 Roger Stoel, Holland, MI
- #1052 Thomas J Blewett, Verona, WI
- #1053 Thomas D Brumbaugh, Lafayette, LA
- #1054 Nicholas A Di Sandro, Godfrey, IL
- #1055 Pierre P Marki, Camden, ME
- #1056 Robert L McLeroy, Conroe, TX
- #1057 Alan B Kalos, Lake Station, IN

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of August 31, 2018. Their names are now permanently listed in the on-line roster.

- #1047 John J George, Newfield, NJ
- #1048 George S Albany III, Wallingford, PA

ON THE LAYOUT PUZZLE



About how many hours would it take to travel from 1901 to 1958?

Think you know the answer? Submit your solution to:

villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

The solution will appear in the next issue.



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 Index'. You can search this document by author or title. Use 'Ctrl + F' on Windows or '⌘ + F' on a Mac.

BACK IN THE DAY

Growing Up in the Fifties:
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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



Time is running out to order your 20th anniversary Frosty Bar. All orders must be post-marked by November 30, 2018. Orders received after that time will be returned to the sender. Keep in mind that our Frosty Bar will be a first. It is the first time that it will be made in two shades of the same color. That will

make it unique and most likely sought after by people who are not PCA members.

Parts bin update - **Please don't send money with your letter requesting parts.** I never know just how many of the pieces you are requesting will be available as well as the charge for postage and packaging. Once your package is on the way, I will either send you an email informing you of the charges or I will call you if you don't have an email address as part of your membership record.

I will be living in Rochester, near Mayo Clinic, during my radiation treatments and will be commuting home to pick up the previous week's mail, prepare meals for the following week for

my kids, and any other things that need attention. Feel free to make requests but keep in mind that I will not be able to fill any Parts Bin requests until probably after the first of next year.

Have you moved? Have you dropped your landline phone? Have you changed your email address? Do you have a cell phone?

Please help the PCA keep your membership record current. Please email secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail me any changes that should be noted in your membership record to PCA 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021.

A tip of the hat to Don MacCormack, #18-1043. Don's layout was featured in the July, 2018 issue of Classic Toy Trains. The article covers a whopping six pages.

By the time you read this I will be well into my radiation therapy. I wish to express my most sincere thanks to all who have wished me well.

John L Niehaus
Secretary/Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The last time I wrote a report was for the summer newsletter, and like most of you, was sweltering in the warm weather. Like some of you, I was also dealing with the high humidity to go along with it.

I'm about to change some of those conditions because my wife and I are right in the middle of a relocation back to Colorado after residing in Pennsylvania for the last three years. We bought a house in Aurora, and will probably be moved in before Thanksgiving, if all goes right.

Orders for the Frosty Bar are going well from what I've been hearing, and I recommend ordering one (or two) sooner than later to be sure that your request will be honored.

At the October York train meet, I did an impromptu attempt to run our PCA meeting. Our Secretary, John, who always runs the meeting, was not in attendance due to some last minute medical issues that came up. We had 24 attendees at the meeting, and it went rather smoothly with the usual show and tell of items and other various discussions. One item that interested me was the showing of a colored picket fence that I believe was a turquoise or salmon (I forgot) type color. I thought that it truly was an unusual item, but from the discussion on the floor, turns out it really wasn't. There truly are some experts in our club dealing with Plasticville that have knowledge far superior than mine, and I truly appreciate their attendance and input dealing with issues such as these.

One subject that I spoke about, and wanted some input from, was the 20th anniversary piece Frosty Bar. I explained the challenges that we faced trying to come up with a color combination

that would please the membership, and I wanted some honest feedback from them if we succeeded. The general discussion was mostly positive with one member saying that it was truly unique having a piece of two shades of the same color. Most attendees had already ordered one or two units.

I didn't have any door prizes to offer, but one of our members offered two telephone poles with mounted mailboxes, and gave them away to the attendees with their birthday being the closest to the meeting day. The meeting was over after about forty minutes, and I can assure you that the lack of John's presence was felt across the room.

One of our members asked me if the spare parts service was still in existence, and I replied that it was. The last time I spoke to John was at the executive quarterly conference call, and at that time, he was still separating and organizing the pieces from a large donation that he received from one of our members. I know that he is overloaded with all of the issues that he manages, and I also know that he would welcome any help that he could get from our membership with taking over this responsibility.

I hope that all of you have a happy holiday season.

Frank Ross
PCA Vice President

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OCTOBER 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Scheduling conflicts precluded an October Executive Committee meeting. The following "minutes" were approved by all Committee members by October 15 via email.

Old Business

20th anniversary piece

Secretary Niehaus reported that 175 pieces have been ordered but that communications with the members point at more orders to be received.

Membership dues review

Tabled until the full Committee membership is in attendance at a future meeting.

Transcription of Lee Riley interview of 2012

Secretary Niehaus stated that he will review the transcription while he is undergoing his radiation therapy treatments at the Mayo Clinic. He stated that he will have time as he will be staying in Rochester, MN for the duration of his treatments.

ePCA membership for volunteers

Tabled until the full Committee membership is in attendance at a future meeting.

New Business

There was no new business

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus, Secretary/Treasurer



KEEP YOUR INFORMATION CURRENT

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K-LINE: BOXES, ACCESSORY BOXES

Licensed Buildings and Accessories

DONALD W. HUOVINEN #11-714



Before returning to how K-Line packaged their buildings and accessories it is helpful to understand how K-Line sold them. K-Line's buildings and accessories were available in several different ways. As such the packaging varied greatly depending upon how the buildings and accessories were sold. K-Line buildings and accessories were available in the following ways:

- As separate sale individually boxed items.
- Included in train sets
- Included as part of a larger boxed building set
- Included as part of a larger accessory set
- Included with railroad cars

In this column I'll discuss a subset of the first of these: Buildings and accessories sold as individually boxed items. The others will be covered in future columns.

The most common of the buildings and accessories sold as individually boxed were the regular production items. These boxes and their evolution have already been covered in previous Villager columns. But K-Line also made a number of licensed items including buildings and accessories for separate sale. K-Line had a host of licensing agreements and produced separate sale buildings and accessories for Coca-Cola, Campbell's, Hershey's, Nabisco, Anheuser-Busch, The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus and Heinz. In general the packaging for the licensed items are very distinctive, reflecting their corporate image. The image is reflected in such trademarked items as color, logos, and shape. In general the separate sale packaging is unique to the item being sold, there being no generic box for any particular item. Of course there are exceptions. As most boxes are unique there is no reason to categorize the characteristics of each box. Accordingly the accompanying photos are examples of how separate sale buildings and accessories were packaged.

Coca-Cola's logo and brand name are probably the most recognized in the world. And K-Line produced many of their licensed products including at least 16 different sets and many separate sale buildings and accessories. Coca-Cola buildings/accessories packaged for separate sale include:

- K-40111 Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- K-40311 Coca Cola Suburban Station
- K-40721 Coca-Cola Service Station
- K-41051 Coca-Cola Diner
- K-41781 Coca-Cola Water Tower
- K-01246 Coke Operating Barrel Loader with Barrels
- K-010601 Illum. Vending Machine: "Diet Coke"
- K-010602 Illum. Vending Machine: "Vanilla Coke"

- K-010603 Illum. Vending Machine: "Coca-Cola"
- K-010604 Illum. Vending Machine: "Sprite"
- K-418711 Coca-Cola Billboards (3)
- K-4150-05 Coca Cola General Store
- K-424332 Coke brand Operating Platform
- K-013201 Coke Revolving Beacon (this was cataloged in 2005 but the I have never seen one)

Photo 1 shows a number of Coca-Cola buildings and accessories as typically packaged.

Campbell's buildings/accessories packaged for separate sale in-



clude:

- K-40814 Campbell's Diner
- K-41004 Campbell's Supermarket
- K-41874 Campbell's Billboards

Photo 2 shows the packaging for the Campbell's buildings and accessories.



Hershey's buildings/accessories packaged for separate sale include:

- K-01242 Hershey's Operating Barrel Loader
- K-40112 Hershey's Chocolate U.S.A. Factory
- K-40312 Chocolate Town U.S.A. Station
- K-40812 Hershey's Diner
- K-41052 Hershey's Confection and Fountain Store
- K-41782 Chocolate Town U.S.A. Water Tower
- K-418721 Hershey's Historic Billboards

Photo 3 shows a number of Hershey's buildings and accessories as typically packaged.



Nabisco's buildings/accessories packaged for separate sale include:

- K-124 Nabisco Barrel Loader
- K-4011-05 Nabisco Bakery
- K-4100-06 Dave's General Store
- K-41786 Nabisco Water Tower

Interestingly all of the Nabisco buildings/accessories came in white non-descript boxes. Even though the K-Line 1997 catalog states that these items were "Marketed by K-LINE ELECTRIC TRAINS, Inc." I believe the items were only available through the Nabisco Gifts and Collectibles catalog. As such there was no requirement for eye-catching packaging. Reader input is especially invited about this point.

Photo 4 shows a number of Nabisco buildings and accessories as typically packaged.



Anheuser-Busch's buildings/accessories packaged for separate sale include:

- K4102-05 Anheuser-Busch Convenience Store
- K-013105 Anheuser-Busch Bubbling Water Tower

The packaging for K-013105 Anheuser-Busch Bubbling Water Tower is an exception to being distinctly packaged. The tower is packaged in a normal K-131 Bubbling Water Tower box with a sticker overlaid on the label to identify it as an Anheuser-Busch Bubbling Water Tower.

Photo 5 shows the Anheuser-Busch buildings and accessories as packaged.



The only separate sale Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus item was K-41873 Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus Billboards. This is shown in Photo 6.



The only separate sale Heinz item was K-41873A Heinz Billboard 3-PAC shown in Photo 7. In 2005 K-Line cataloged a K-403103 Heinz Transfer Station and K-424085 Heinz Operating Billboard but I have not seen either one.

As always I welcome your additions, corrections or comments about all things K-Line. Please e-mail me at dhuov@aol.com.

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PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 106

Generic HO Boxes

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154



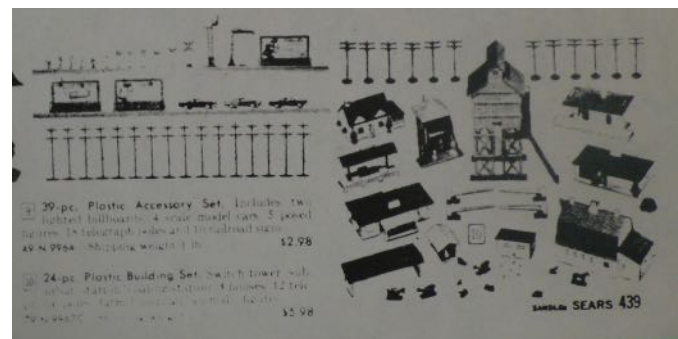
Plasticville HO Boxed sets during the generically boxed years continued to advance the HO line. New buildings were included, and the former "hand me down" lawn accessories from their big brother's O & S group were phased out. The barnyard animals were finally being produced in HO scale, and highly detailed picket fence was brought out. These sets had an identity which was being set apart from the O & S products. They were called All New HO Assortments. The HO line leadership had asserted itself and had gained respect, but both O & S Plasticville and HO Plasticville shared a common facility: an exceedingly efficient packing and shipping department. Subsequently, their main goal was to cut costs and boost productivity. They proposed packing all Plasticville boxed sets into same style -multiple use - boxes, which would be large enough to make do for everything which was yet to be offered. The HO generic box was a mere 2 & 1/4 inches smaller than the immense O & S Railroad Center boxes of the late 1950's. This chapter is about those boxes.

All HO Assortment # 4901 was the first HO set to be packaged in the generic box. All HO Assortment # 4902 followed. The box measured 14½ inches square × 2½ inches deep. The contents were separated by 8 trays which measured: four trays at 3½" × 5¾ inches, two trays at 4" × 8½ inches, and two trays at 4" × 5¼ inches. These trays had a very large capacity for HO items leaving an impression of a box half full. The generic box art was a beautiful artist's conception of an ideal arrangement of the HO village kits which were set into a scene along modern city blocks. Beyond the depicted railroad's main line was a panorama done in a landscape style. The countryside spread out toward the horizon. The rural buildings were set on rolling hills of farm plots, and hedge rows. The herald "PLASTICVILLE" was placed near the upper edge of the box top; "U.S.A." was illustrated on a Federal highway shield. The font was changed back to block letters just like that of the letter era sets. The slogan "THE ORIGINAL PLASTIC VILLAGE" reappeared, and the slogan "Exclu-

sive Snap Fit Assembly", "NO TOOLS", "NO GLUE NEEDED FOR ASSEMBLY", were superimposed over the rolling hills. The set name "ALL HO ASSORTMENT" was offset below and to the right of the herald. A rubber stamp or a sticker were the final means of identifying any individual boxed set.

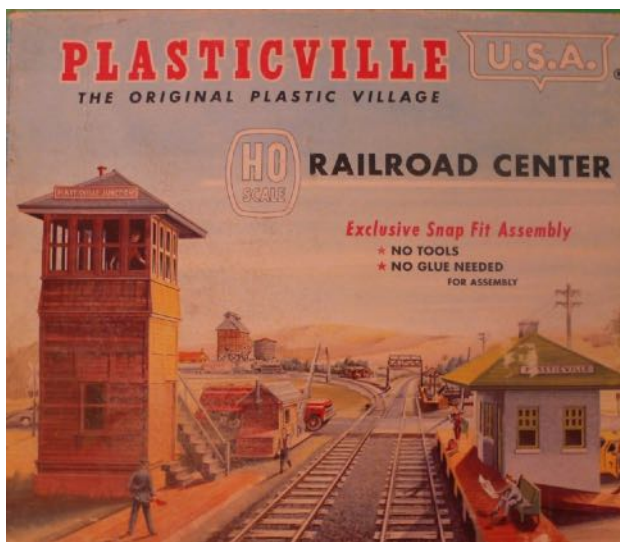
City in a Box # 4903 was packaged in the generic box. This set was the final cataloged box set of the HO line.

All HO Assortment # 4800 was a uncatalogued boxed set sold by Sears, Roebuck & Co. for \$5.98. The 4800 was packaged in the generic box.



All HO Assortment # 4801 was a uncatalogued boxed set sold by other select retail chain stores. The 4801 was packaged in the generic box.

All HO Assortment # 4499 was another uncatalogued boxed set. The author's 4499 has no store price sticker to help identify who might have retailed it. The uncatalogued set numbers are boundless. Any additional information about generic set numbers should be directed to the PCA. Why were there so many different uncatalogued set numbers in the twilight of the Classic Era? Bachmann offered special wholesale costs to select clients. Lionel Corp. did the same, especially for Sears. A hobby store owner could complain, "How can Sears sell the same Plasticville set as I just ordered for 40 cents less than me?" The distributor could then reply, "It's not the same set."



The All HO Assortment's list of contents remains controversial. They have become obscured by items which were lost to the set, and by items added in after their initial purchase. The huge capacity of the generic box dividers invited using them as extra storage for exotic items. For instance, that landscape box top art shows so many unrelated kits to the set that a garage seller might add in some extra buildings just "cause it's on the picture". But the following list of kits seem to be included in every All HO Assortment: The Cape Cod and the ranch house, the coaling tower, the suburban station, the barn and animals, picket fence, 6 phone poles. The majority of All HO Assortment boxed sets are also found with a large gas station & car, farm out buildings, plus either a switch tower or a crossing shanty (seldom marbled but possible). In addition, two of the dividing trays always seem to hold uniquely selected items to each set.



24 pc Plastic Building Set # 9967 was a boxed set sold only out of the 1960 Sears Roebuck Catalog, by mail order only. A photograph shows a copy of that catalog's page. There was no rubber stamping, or pictures, or marking of any kind on the 9967's set box. This was truly the image of a generic box. There was no decorative paper covering on this box; it's as plain as it could be. The box top looked the same as the box bottom. Obviously it was never fashioned to be presented at any store's point of sale (POS). This set was packaged in the same box size and dividers as the huge O & S City in a Box # 5901 which was covered in Chapter 211. For comparison, a side by side photograph of the box tops belonging to the #9967 and the O & S # 5901 illustrates that this HO box was exceedingly large for it's purpose. The specific contents of the 9967 were: a suburban station with extended platform, a switch tower, coaling station, barn, farm out buildings & animals, two ranch houses, a Cape Cod house, citizens, a dozen phone poles, and four crossing gates.

Railroad Center # 4603 was packaged in another generic box style. Railroad Center # 4604 followed. The box measured 12½" × 10⅛" × 2½ inches. The contents were separated by four trays measuring: twin trays at 3¾" × 6 inches, a 7½" × 3⅝ inch tray, and a large 10" × 4½ inch tray which was needed to hold the coaling station. The box top graphics were arranged just like the All HO Assortment's graphic layout. A sticker was the final means of identifying the Railroad Centers. The railroad Center's box top artwork was an engineer's cab view down the mainline at Plasticville Junction. A local freight train is approaching the double track main line from the junction's curving spur. All of Plasticville's HO railroad structures are included in this landscape style artwork except for the Union Station and trestle bridge. The actual contents of the Railroad Centers, although not as controversial as those for the All HO Assortments, remain undetermined. The author has not owned enough of these sets to make a comparative judgement. But the basic structures included the following kits: coaling station, water tower, signal bridge, and a cracker box style freight station. Subject to the packing department's availability from surplus, a suburban station was alternated with the preferred cracker box freight station. The sets were accessorized with a crossing gate & crossbucks, phone poles, railroad characters, and crates with hand truck.

The full extent of the generically boxed HO line may forever stay a mystery. For the Plasticville collector they remain as the most challenging field of any other boxed set group. The challenge is based both upon their lack of availability and upon their difficult identification of contents. Those who have them do not sell, and those who sell do not have them. But, by sharing information through the PCA all the set numbers may some day be found. The following kits are recommended to supplement the HO boxed sets because they don't seem to appear in any of the HO sets: the house under construction, the movie theater, a cattle pen, green house, split level house, Colonial house, and the railroad work car.

During the generically boxed years, Bachmann was already escalating their presence in the HO hobby market. More realistic HO kits were about to be brought out, such as the contemporary house, drive in bank, men's store, and motor court with a kidney shaped pool. Those new kits compared well with Tyco's scale buildings. A new division, Bachmann Trains, was formulating a business plan to compete against AHM and Tyco. Bachmann was among the first American manufacturers to gain an advantage by cutting labor costs in China. In doing so, they proved once again that rivals could not underestimate Bachmann's drive to succeed. They built their start up factory plant for this new division in Hong Kong. But there was already an extremely ambitious HO hobby manufacturer which had been founded in Hong Kong in 1948, and they knew the ins and outs of the bureaucracy. That manufacturer, Kader, bought out Bachmann in 1984. Bachmann had, it seems, gone into the lion's den.

Bill Nole PLASTICVILLE for Sale
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Boxed Kits, Complete

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0400 Mobile Home (Blue or Cream walls) \$10 Mint
0500 KING Apartment House (Brown) \$30
0550 King Add A Floor (Brown or Red) \$8 each 3/\$20
1983 Colonial Mansion Scenic Classic \$20 Mint
1984 Colonial Church Scenic Classic \$25 Mint
1986 New Eng. Ranch Scenic Classic \$20 Mint
1987 Barn Scenic Classic \$18 Mint
45985 LCCA Air Admin Bldg Orange/Blue, \$20 Mint
1618 TV Station with RARE Decal \$95

1923 Roadside Stand \$20 Mint
1809 Loading Platform \$15 Mint
DE-7 Diner \$10
1504 Trailer \$30
1624 House Under Construction \$30
1804 Greenhouse, \$30
45986 LCCA Hangar, \$20 Mint
ON-5 Outdoor Necessities \$35
SC-4 School with RARE red weathervane \$75

No Box Kits, Complete

Railroad Work Car \$10, Suburban Station \$8, Mobile Home (6 different colors) \$12 ea or 6/\$60
Barn \$8, Hobo Shacks \$15, School \$10, Fire Department \$10, Turnpike (green walls) \$15
Diner \$8, Add-A-Floor \$6 each 3/\$15, Colonial Mansion (red roof) \$15, Colonial Church \$15

Accessories

Telephone Booth \$4 each or 3/\$10, Outhouse (brown) \$4, 2 RED Fire Trucks \$10 per set
Street Corner signs with original tags 6 for \$8 24 Shrubs 3 each of 8 different colors \$20
Green Bus, Green or Yellow Ambulance \$5 ea, BBQs 5/\$10

PLASTICVILLE PARTS - \$1.00 ea unless otherwise noted (Reproductions unless noted as original.)

Factory(#1988): original walls, brown platform, Union Station (1958): original walls, roofs, canopies, platforms, steps, Hobo Shack: original walls & roof (brown or dark grey), original rear canopy \$5 (brown or dark grey), original door, original window, Railroad work car: original walls & roof, original canopy \$4, original steps \$2, 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, Turnpike: white lens holder, 2 lenses(Red or Green). Cattle Pen: crossbars
Turnpike: white cones 4/\$3, green sign \$3, Post Office: flag \$5,

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

Airport: windsock, Log Cabin: chimney, Hospital: siren, Fire Department: siren
Bank: large or small canopy, House Under Construction: sawhorse (3 pieces)

STORYTOWN PARTS - \$1.00 ea (Reproductions unless noted as original.)

Jack & Jill: pail, Ginger Bread: 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

HOLIDAY PHOTOS

PCA MEMBERS



Robert Spivey



Chuck Neuman



Michael Marmer



Larry & Matt Harvazinski



Jim Steed



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

THE YORK REPORT

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI #11-862

The annual TCA York meet was held October 18th – 20th. This year I found the offerings around the various halls to be lackluster, only buying four white telephone poles without the cross supports. There was a lot of boxed Plasticville available for reasonable prices. Many tables were marked with signs that said each box was \$10, \$15, or \$20. There were no rare buildings or colors to be found in any of these lots.

At the lunchtime PCA meeting several members brought items to share with the group. One item that is very unique is green picket fence. This can be found in the #1002 dealer box marked "GREEN", but is usually found loose. Many members in attendance had not seen this item before.



The two items up were from the late Lee Riley estate. An auction for some of his items was held earlier this year. The first item is an original painting that was used for the HO 2417 Bridge & Pond. Besides the striking visual colors the other wow factor item for this piece is the sheer size. It is much larger than the box.

The final item is a test sample used in the catalog photo shoot for the Plasticville released starting in 1997. This item is the railroad work car from the 45983 Hobo Shacks. The item is glued together



and had some airbrushed paint added to it, likely to improve the photographic quality for the catalog.



Some York reports have included a what is it worth rating? That is up to you! It is hard to say, common pieces seem to be a dime a dozen, rare items are simply not frequently offered for sale, so expect to pay a premium if you should come across one.

ROTATING DISPLAYS

NORBERT PRZYBYLSKI #15-910

This is a reply to the Editors Lego column in the August 2018 issue of *The Villager*. I had some pictures shown in the November 2016 issue of *The Villager* that had some of my Plasticville buildings displayed on shelves. On these shelves for the summer display I currently have some of my Lego buildings. I have also added some of the Woodland Scenic Plug-in Lights to each floor of each building. The lighting helps to display the great detail that Lego has on each floor of all of their buildings. Right after Labor Day the shelves will get changed over to Halloween & the Lego buildings will get moved back downstairs to the train room. The attached file has pictures of the entire display area plus pictures of each of the four bottom shelves that has my Lego Buildings displayed on them. There are more ways to create different types of displays with different types of items.



A HISTORY OF PLASTICVILLE: PART IV

1951 & 1952

TOM FRITSCH #01-4

1951

FIRE ALARM BOX (FA-3)

Bachmann did not list the production numbers of the Fire Alarm Box in their catalogs, except that they did show them in the 1951 catalog among the contents of the CD-5 Dealer Window and Counter Display Unit. It was also available in 1951 with the release on the ON-5 Outdoor Necessities card. Starting in 1952, they were available in the ST-1 Street Accessories Unit, and the SU-5 Shopping Unit. The only place these items could be found in subsequent years was in the various Master Units that contained them. The Fire Alarm Box was only issued in red. The Fire Alarm Box disappeared in 1963.

FIRE HYDRANT (WH-5, 1918)

Bachmann did not list the production numbers of the Fire Hydrant in their catalogs. They did show them in the 1951 catalog among the contents of the CD-5 Dealer Window and Counter Display Unit. It was also available in 1951 with the release on the ON-5 Outdoor Necessities card. Starting in 1952, they were available in the ST-1 Street Accessories Unit, and the SU-5 Shopping Unit. The only place these items could be found in subsequent years was in the various Master Units that contained them. The Fire Hydrant disappeared in 1963, but returned in 1975. The Fire Hydrant was originally issued in red but, with the release of the #1918 Park Assortment in 1975, the color was changed to orange.

MAIL BOX (MB-6, 1918)

Bachmann did not list the production numbers of the Mail Box in their catalogs, but they did show it in the 1951 catalog among the contents of the CD-5 Dealer Window and Counter Display Unit. It was also available in 1951 with the release on the ON-5 Outdoor Necessities card. Starting in 1952, they were available in the ST-1 Street Accessories Unit, and the SU-5 Shopping Unit. The only place these items could be found in subsequent years was in the various Master Units that contained them. The Mailbox was originally issued in green and disappeared in 1963; it returned in red in 1975 as a part of the #1918 Park Assortment.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL (TL-4)

Bachmann did not list the production number of the Traffic Signal in their catalogs, but they did show it in the 1951 catalog among the contents of the CD-5 Dealer Window and Counter Display Unit. This Traffic Signal was also available in 1951 with the release on the ON-5 Outdoor Necessities card. Starting in 1952, it could be found in the ST-1 Street Accessories Unit, and the SU-5 Shopping Unit. The only place that this item could be found in subsequent years was in the various Master Units that contained them. It was only produced in the common green color that Bachmann used on many of their small items. The Traffic Signal disappeared in 1963.

OUTDOOR NECESSITIES (ON-5)

Outdoor Necessities were released in 1951. There were 15 pieces packed on a colorful display card: four Traffic Signals, four Fire Hydrants, two Fire Alarm Boxes, two Mail Boxes and three Benches. These 15 items came attached to a piece of thin cardboard which was meant to be hung on a peg-board display rack, thus accounting for the hole punched in the center top. This card was often discarded and thus it is rare. A year later, this item gave way to the ST-1 Street Accessory boxed unit, which was more practical for display and storage.

RANCH HOUSE (RH-1, 1603, 1705, 1812, 1852, 1934, 5603, 45934)

The Ranch House was originally constructed in Plasticville in 1951 as RH-1. At first it was only offered in white/blue yellow/white green/white, brown/red, and pink/gray; it was later made in many other colors. In 1956, the catalog number was changed to #1603, then to #1705 in 1964. A Pliofilm bag version of the Ranch House was available in 1963 as #5603. Of the boxes that this house was issued in, the #1812 box is the hardest to find because it was only available for four years (1967-1971). It looks identical to the #1705 box. In 1971 the #1852 box was issued; in 1980, it was changed to #1934. Two of the most difficult colors to locate were made in the 1980s. The two gray-sided Ranch Houses – one with a blue roof and one with a brown roof – came in a box with a photo of a yellow-green sided/brown roof version. The



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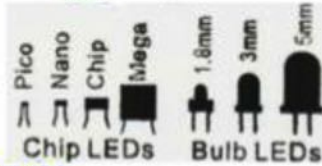
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rarest Ranch House is the dark blue sided/dark gray roof version, which appears to be a variation or a specific run of the lighter version. The garage door on the Ranch House was originally used on the small Gas Station.

There is evidence on the painting on the box for the #1705 Ranch House, that additional Citizens from Littleton may have been planned by Bachmann. In the painting is a young girl in a dress, bending over slightly, with both hands on her knees. It is an exact copy of a Littleton girl. She has the same hair, bobby socks and puffy-shouldered short-sleeved dress. The two seem too identical to be a coincidence.

SCHOOL HOUSE (SC-4, 1608, 1914, 1982, 45304 45611)

The School House was released in 1951. The SC-4 release in 1954 and 1955 included a Bus. The original release had red walls, but three roof color variations: light gray, dark gray and white. The weathervane was generally white, but a rare red variation also exists. The front white-based "glow in the dark" lights on the School House are shared by the Police Department, Post Office and Bank. In 1963, #1608 was released with no "PLASTICVILLE SCHOOL" name above the door. When the #1982 "Scenic Classic" version of the School House in was released 1980, Bachmann included Playground Equipment in a variety of different colors: red, white, yellow, bright green and gray. The 1999 version (#45611) came in a new color combination of red walls, dark gray roof and cream trim with no "PLASTICVILLE SCHOOL" name. This version, which was made in China, comes with silver-gray Playground Equipment. A "Built-Up" version was issued in 2005 as #45304.

The Lionel "School Structure Set" #961, released in 1959, included a School House, Flagpole, two orange Buses, Street Signs, small white Fence, Shrubs and Benches.

POLICE DEPARTMENT (PD-3, 1614, 45609)

In 1951, The Police Department came to Plasticville as PD-3. Its look suggests a gritty precinct house in downtown Philadelphia. Except for the front ("with 'formidable' barred windows") and the antenna, the Police Department is exactly the same as the previously issued Fire House. One set of molds was used to produce two items. In addition, the front red-based "glow in the dark" lights on the Police Department are shared by the School House, Post Office and Bank. The "two-way radio" antenna base has two sizes to match two types of roof indentions. There are

dark gray and the light gray-sided versions of this building, as well as a scarce sandstone colored variation. The PD-3 box that houses the Police Department is relatively common, but the #1614 box that was released in 1957 is rare. The #45609 version was released in 1998 with cream walls and a brown roof. This release, made in China, included an Apartment House antenna in place of the traditional antenna. The Police Department included a "patrol car," which was just a standard Plasticville Automobile, in 1954 and 1955 and was re-introduced in 1998.

1952

PLATFORM FENCE AND GATE (3-F, WF-5, WG-10, 1006, 1032, 1504)

The Platform Fence and Gate was issued in 1952. It consisted of 15 sections of fence and one gate in a green and white box. Of the fence boxes that were offered to the public for purchase, this is the most difficult one to find. The Platform Fence and Gate was dropped in 1958, although it could still be found in the #5606 Countryside Farm for the next two years. WF-5 and #1006 were dealer boxes that had twelve fence sections, while WG-10 and #1032 were dealer boxes with twelve gates. The #1504 number was later reused to catalog the House Trailer.

SIGNS (12-A, 1100, 1405, 1931, 45931, 45989)

Introduced in 1952, the "complete set of twelve stanchions is finished in deep yellow. Markings are processed in black." The "shapes depict official standards." The first issue of Street Signs came in a box designated as 12-A. In 1957, Bachmann added twelve white Railroad Signs (former Littleton item #306) to the Street Signs, and cataloged them as #1405 - Railroad and Street Signs, which sold through 1963. Signs were later issued with twelve Telephone Poles in kits #1931 in 1981 and #45989 in 1997. The newer Street Signs are pale yellow in color. The Street Signs include: BUS STOP, +, KEEP RIGHT NO PASSING, NARROW BRIDGE, NO LEFT TURN, PARKING LIMIT ONE HOUR, SCHOOL SLOW, SLOW, SPEED LIMIT 35 M.P.H., STOP, TRAFFIC LIGHT AHEAD and WATCH CHILDREN. The Railroad Signs include: CATTLE CROSSING, CURVE, DANGER FALLING ROCKS, HEAD CLEARANCE 8 FT, HIGH VOLTAGE, R/R, RR PROPERTY KEEP OUT, SLOW DOWN MEN WORKING, SLOW ROAD AHEAD, STOP RAILROAD CROSSING LOOK OUT FOR TRAIN, TUNNEL APPROACH and YARD LIMIT.

DINER (DE-7, 1500, 45605)

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Catalog number DE-7 was first used to designate the Diner when it was introduced in 1952. In 1958, Bachmann changed the number to #1500 and issued a new box to house it. This box is very difficult to find. The Diner was issued in gray with either red or yellow roof and window blinds. The only exception to these colors is the silverized/chrome variation of 1954 and 1955. Bachmann had plated three walls of this eating establishment in chrome; the back wall remained gray in color. The silver metallization process used on the Diner walls was also used for a short time on the Barn silo top and roof ventilators as well as on the counter of the Frosty Bar. This process was previously used on church steeple crosses. The #45605 release of 1998 had silver-painted tan walls with a black roof and window blinds; this issue was made in China. The clock over the front door reads 3:58.

BARNYARD ANIMALS (BY-4, 1606)

Originally released in 1952, 18 animals were included with the BY-4 set. The same quantity was also in the #1606 box when it was released in 1957. This **second issue of the animal set had less shiny animals than the first issue.** The Barnyard Animal sets consisted of four standing cows, three sitting cows, three horses, four pigs and four sheep. The sheep came in white, off-white and gray; the pigs, horses and cows came in black, white, caramel brown and dark brown. In addition, the cows came in white with painted brown or black markings. The Barnyard Animals were designed to quarter-inch scale; therefore, they are accurate 0 scale models.

The white horses and those with light grey painted hoofs were apparently only made for Lionel use – Plasticville horses were used for the Lionel General Flat Car. The #4002 "Make 'N' Play – Farm" set, released in 1964, consisted of 32 dark brown Barnyard Animals, a Barn, Farm Vehicle set and four Citizens. The #5012, "Storytown U.S.A. – Jack and Jill" set (available 1957-1959) also included a white cow.

STREET ACCESSORIES (ST-1, 1609)

Street Accessories were introduced in 1952. The ST-1 release has 29 pieces: twelve Street Signs, three Fire Hydrants, three Fire Alarm Boxes, three Mail Boxes, two Street Name Signs with tags, two Boulevard Lights, two Street Lamps and two Traffic Signals. In 1963, the #1609 blister pack was released, with 32 pieces. These included four Fire Hydrants four Fire Alarm Boxes, four Mail Boxes, four Street Name Signs with tags, ten Street Lamps and six Traffic Signals.

AIRPORT HANGAR (AP-1, 45986)

The Plasticville Airport Hangar, introduced in 1952, was only available in one box style. The catalogs show other numbers for this structure but they were never made available to the public for purchase. The Airport Hangar had white walls with a blue roof and red door or the less common orange roof with gray door. The majority of the orange-roofed version came with the #5600 Plasticville International Airport Master Units and #5607 Plasticville Interceptor Squadron Airport. Both of these sets included cardboard runways. The 1997 release (#45986) came with a gray roof and door. Though the item identifier on this box correctly labels it a "hangar," the list on the bottom of the box of all items available, lists it as a "hanger." The first release of the Airport Hangar included two gray Jet Planes, while the later release included four olive green Jet Planes. These planes were a USAF fighter and bomber, rather than passenger-carrying aircraft. The smaller has a wingspan of 3¼" and resembles an F-101; the other has a 4-1/16" span and resembles a Lockheed. The Jet Planes were also sold as part of the #1802 ten-piece Vehicle Assortment.

In 1964, Bachmann released the #4001 "Make 'N' Play – Jungle Attack" kit that included a hangar that was completely olive-drab green. In addition, the Jungle Attack Set included six silver-gray Jet Planes (3 each of the two different Plasticville planes), as well as two tanks and 20 olive soldiers. A multi-colored paper playmat finished the set.

The Lionel Collector's Club of America made an agreement with Bachmann in 1999 to produce a limited run of both the Airport Hangar (with no Jet Planes) and the Airport Administration building in Lionel's classic colors of orange and navy blue. Reportedly, only 996 of these sets were produced.

HOUSE & YARD ACCESSORIES UNIT (HY-8)

This kit was one of the early "Master Units" and was cataloged in 1952 and 1953 only. Many of the items included in this kit were available separately beginning with the Cape Cod House in 1948 or 1949. In addition to the Cape Cod House, several small accessories were included in the kit: eleven small Fence Sections, one small Gate Section, one Spruce Tree, one Barbecue, two Benches and three Shrubs. As is indicative of all Master Units, there was a separately contained divider within the larger box that contained the small parts of this kit.

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

I recently purchased 2 boxes of 1630 telephone poles. The poles in both boxes are the light brown as was passed around at Spring York. 00-03 John Niehaus

I was fooling with some recently acquired P'Ville just this afternoon, and I have a tip to share with our members. It has been my experience that the best cleaner I have found is "Fantastik WITH BLEACH". It doesn't remove paint, but I have used it to remove fake snow and every other type of dirt and filth. For bad cases, I will spray the affected piece in the sink and walk away and let it sit for an hour before rinsing. This stuff works for me, but please try it on an inconspicuous area first. 07-491 Mike Maslowski

I recently picked up some Canadian Plasticville, some in boxes and some items not in boxes. Anyway, 2 odd things in lot.

1) Couple street lights in dark brown. Not black, but dark brown. Can't remember if this color variation ever listed. Have you seen/heard of before.

2) Cape cod with normal medium green roof, but the doors and windows are definitely a different color green, are very, very dark green, or like a Blackish dark green. Very odd color, that I've never seen before. No box. Have you seen or heard of this color variation before. Might be hard to capture on regular camera, but is definitely not normal med green. Since it came w/ a lot of definite Canadian Plasticville items, wondering if this cape cod might be Canadian production as well. 02-183 Charles Swanson

You are doing a great job on the "Villager" and it is always an enjoyable read.

Regarding the 2 toy autos pictured on the cover of the latest issue, they are part of a set of cars included with Marx lithographed tin toy gas stations. The two pictured are a 1960 Pontiac 2 door hardtop in red, and the other is a 1960 Chevrolet 4 door sedan in black (or very dark green). Others in the series included a 1960 Cadillac 2 door hardtop as well as a 1960 Ford Thunderbird 2 door hardtop. When these were introduced in the very early sixties, they were molded in a harder plastic compound similar to styrene and in later years they were produced in a softer plastic much like vinyl.

Please note that these autos were produced for other companies such as Superior, Allstate, T. Cohn, and Wolverine to include in their toy gas stations as well as typical accessories such as gas pumps, grease racks, air pumps, and even figures. So these are really somewhat prevalent in the toy hobby, and I typically see these cars and accessories offered at Train shows and swap meets for a dollar or two each. I prefer the earlier hard plastic versions.

The cars I've seen have been molded in a variety of bright generic toy-like colors like yellow, blue, red, brown, white, green, and black. There may be more that I've missed. Scale is approximately 1/43rd scale but does vary considerably as the Corvair (Chevrolet's first compact car) is almost the same length as the Cadillac!

I hope this helps out David Hoffman and a few other members.

Gary Weickart



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K-LINE KRONICLES

#K-4178 Water Tower

ED BERG #02-123



One of the great satisfactions of collecting K-Line plastic buildings over their Marx predecessors was the wide variety of color schemes and marking available over the years. When you compare the two manufacturers Marx clearly comes across as the toy train world's drab and unexciting maiden aunt. Here is another of K-Line's licensed products, the colorful K-Line #K-40815 Budweiser Diner, based of course on the Marx #3771 'Marxville Diner'. Our example was included in the #K1521 Anheuser-Busch Train Set of 1997 and is a fairly difficult building to find. The building is a 'stand-alone' piece in that it didn't include any vehicles, figures, or other accessories being a part of a larger set. Enjoy!

Ed "ICE" Berg, Las Vegas, NV



A NEW SIGN FOR THE PLASTICVILLE FROSTY BAR

MARK DIVECCHIO #01-77

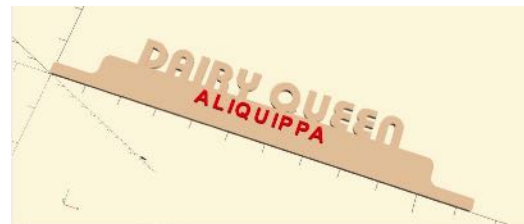
I like the Plasticville Frosty Bar but the main town on my layout is not Plasticville but rather Aliquippa, PA - my hometown. In Aliquippa, we had a Dairy Queen. Now I can do something about that - at least since I bought a Prusa i3 MK2S 3D printer. I used my new printer to make a new sign for the Frosty Bar. I will try to describe in general terms what I did and how I developed a new sign. The whole process of 3D printing is complicated but anyone who can wire up a TMCC or DCS layout can learn it.

I got out my calipers and measured each feature on the sign. Once that was done, I had to build a model of the sign in my computer. There are many programs that can be used for 3D modeling. Most programs let you construct a model graphically. That is, you place boxes, cylinders and other objects together to form your new object. I went a different way for this project, I used the OpenSCAD program.

I really like the OpenSCAD method of modeling because it is programmatic not graphic. I used it for my P&LE Locomotive Shop (prototype in McKees Port, PA) which has thousands of individual bricks. I didn't have to construct each one. I used computer code to do one and then repeated it over and over in a program loop.

For this sign, I wrote the OpenSCAD code in about an hour - though it took a few tweaks and several test prints to get the results that I wanted.

Here is a screen capture of the new sign in the OpenSCAD program. Fonts were a issue especially for the "Frosty Bar" font. I found that the town name was pretty close to "Arial" but the "Frosty Bar" font did not match any font that I had available or any font that I could find on the Internet. I ended up choosing the font "Pump Demi Bold LET". I adjusted the letter "spacing"



parameter to try to match the original sign as well as I could.

The program code is completely customizable. The words and fonts can be changed to satisfy your requirements.

In OpenSCAD, you create 2D objects which you extrude into 3 dimensions or you can create 3D objects directly. I created the basic sign shape from a 2D polygon which I then extruded. I used the "offset" command to make the small fillets at the left and right edges of the sign. To create the "inner" fillets on the left and right inside corners I used a cylinder subtracted from a cube.

For the OpenSCAD source code, go to my web page, address shown at the end of this article.

The color in this rendering is false. I ended up painting the sign white with red letters. This step produces an ".stl" file which is used in the next step. Once the design is complete, it has to be prepared for the printer. 3D printers print one thin slice of the object at a time. Once the bottom-most layer is printed, the printer goes on to print the next layer. In my case, I set the layer thickness to 0.15mm. So the printer builds up the new sign layer by layer, 0.15mm at a time. This slicing of the new sign is done by a program called a "slicer". The slicer program that I use with my printer is "Slic3r". Slic3r reads the ".stl" file created by OpenSCAD and slices the design. Its output is a ".gcode" file which is then sent to the 3D printer.

The plastic used by the printer is called "PLA" which stands for Poly Lactic Acid. PLA is a plastic made from organic material – cornstarch and sugarcane – rather than from oil. The printer melts the PLA and squeezes it out a nozzle onto the print bed.

Think of a 3D printer as a tube of toothpaste being squeezed under control of your computer. Motors move the tube of toothpaste around also under control of your computer. In our case, the toothpaste is really melted PLA and it is being squirted out in 0.15mm layers.

Here is the sign as printed. Still sitting on the print bed. I used white PLA because I had it. Since the sign was going to be painted, it didn't matter too much what color PLA was used. The sign took about an hour to print.



Here is a close up of the printed sign. You can see the beads of PLA as laid down by the printer. This type of fabrication does not produce the nice smooth results of the injection molding of the original Bachmann products. Painting helps hide these beads.



Even though I used white PLA, I still painted the sign white. That paint helped smooth out the surface. I painted the tops of the red letters of Aliquippa. Here is the newly christened Dairy Queen sign in place on the Plasticville Frosty Bar in the park on my layout. More more details about my new Dairy Queen sign, source code and other model train related 3D prints that I've created, take a look at my web page at:



www.silogic.com/trains/3D%20Prints.html



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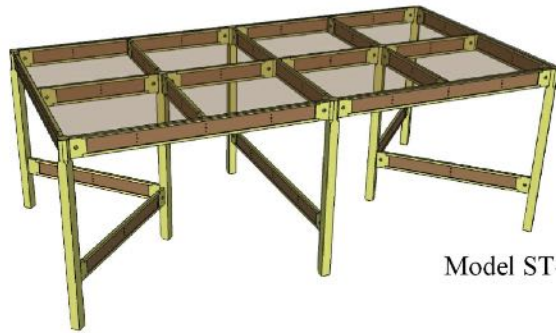
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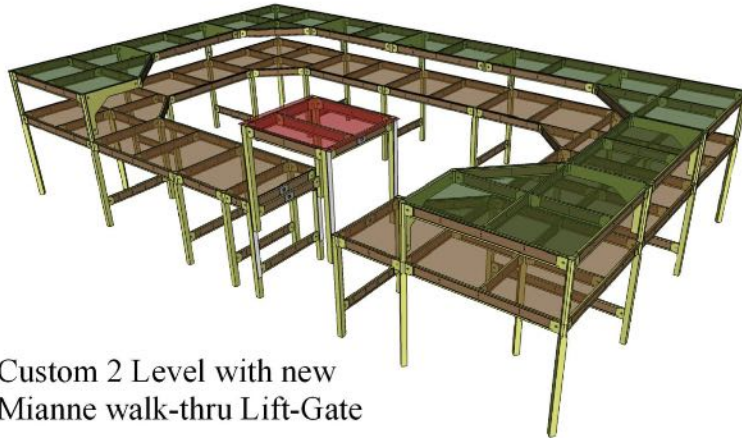
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AUTO BLUES

GERALD SCHUCHARD #02-97

I first became interested Plasticville autos 20 years ago. At a Detroit area train meet, I purchased a dark green, orange and turquoise for \$2.50 each. My interest was piqued after seeing these colors. Soon, I started my quest for finding all the different colors. I read an article by Bill Nole in the *Plastic Village Gazette*, Mike Cedro's fine 2003 periodical. Bill identified 13 basic colors with some varieties shown below.



The blue/gray auto has interesting color variations. The bluer gray washes to gray/blue, then to almost medium and finally to gray/orange.



Two of the 13 colors were blue, pastel blue and dark blue. I have identified 5 blues total:

- Pastel blue
- Light blue
- Medium blue
- Gray blue
- Dark blue

Two additional colors might be considered

- Translucent
- Aqua

These five or seven colors can vary, lighter or darker and shiny or dull.



I decided that my Solido and other diecast cars looked too real with my plastic toy buildings. The photo below shows Main Street with plastic buildings and colorful plastic autos.



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THE PARTS BIN - A PCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Various parts are available for the buildings listed on this page. They are offered free to members on a first come first served basis. The only cost is for the packaging and postage to mail any available requested pieces to you. Send an email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org listing the pieces you wish or mail your list to: The Parts Bin, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207. New additions to the list are in **bold**. Parts added to previous listings are underlined.

There are no complete buildings in the listings below - only parts.

Examples of requests that will be processed:

Switch Tower - roof - brown w/o slots

Motel - rear wall - white

Coaling Tower - Part C



Examples of requests that cannot be processed:

Bungalow - Yes

Littletown General Store - I'll take it all

Ranch House - Whatever you have

Miscellaneous Window Inserts	House Under Construction	Watchman's Shanty
Misc doors & windows	Large Gas Station	Water Tank
12-A Railroad & Street Signs	Large Super Market	Windmill
Airport Administration Building	Lionel RR & Street Signs	Wishing Well
Airport Hangar	Loading Platform	
Apartment House	Log Cabin	HO Bank
Auburn Log Cabin	Maple Trees - no basses	HO Barn
Bank	Mobile Home	HO Cape Cod House
Billboard frames	Motel	HO Cathedral
BN-1 Barn	New England Rancher	HO Cattle Pen
Bridge & Pond	Picket Fence	HO Coaling Station
Bungalow	Picket Fence - no posts	HO Contemporary House
Cape Cod	Picket Fence - posts only	HO Factory
Cathedral	Playground Equipment	HO Fire House
Cattle Pen	Police Station	HO Gas Station
CC7 & 8 Church	Post Office	HO Hardware Pharmacy
CC-9 Church	Railroad Work Car	HO Hobby Shop
Chain Store (5&10)	Ranch House	HO House Under Construction
Christmas Tree - no bases	Roadside Stand	HO Motel
Coaling Tower	Rustic Fence	HO New Car Showroom
Colonial Church	Rustic Gate	HO Police Station
Colonial Mansion	School House	HO Post Office
Corner Store	Signal Bridge	HO Railroad Work Car
Covered Bridge	Small Gas Station	HO Ranch House
Crossing Gate	Small Super Market	HO School House
Dairy Barn	Split Level	HO Signal Bridge
Diner	Spruce Tree	HO Split Level
Drug Store	ST-1 Street Accessories	HO Suburban Station
Factory	Station Platform	HO Super Market
Farm Buildings	Street Lights	HO Switch Tower
Fire House	Suburban Station	HO Theater
Footbridge	Switch Tower	HO TV Station
Frosty Bar	Telephone Poles	HO Two Story House
Greenhouse	Town Hall	HO Union Station
Hardware & Pharmacy	Trestle Bridge	
Hobo Shacks	Turnpike Interchange	K-Line Chicken Coop
Hospital	TV Station	K-Line Church
House Fence	Two Story House	K-Line L-Shaped Ranch
House Fence Gate	Union Station	K-Line Ranch House

Donations to The Parts Bin are a Win-Win proposition!

Donors receive a tax receipt from the PCA for the parts they donate. Members have the opportunity to acquire needed parts.

First Call Parts

Parts in these photos are currently in The Parts Bin and are available to all members on first request/first served basis. Please note both the item and the photo number in which it appears when making a request. Also be aware that the items shown may have already been spoken for and are no longer available.



Last Call Parts



Available parts continued from the previous page.

K-Line Two Story House

Littletown Barn

Littletown Cape Cod

Littletown Church

Littletown Corner Store

Littletown Gas Station

Littletown General Store

Littletown Loading Platform

Littletown Ranch

Littletown RR Station

Littletown School House

Littletown Southern Colonial House

Littletown Super Market

Marx 3 rail fence - oval feet

Marx 3-rail fence - triangle feet

Marx Accessories

Marx Barn

Marx Church

Marx Colonial House

Marx Diner

Marx Factory

Marx Firehouse

Marx General Store

Marx House Fence

Marx House Fence Gate

Marx L Ranch House

Marx Railroad Station

Marx Ranch House

Marx RR & Street signs

Marx Rustic Fence - specify color

Marx School House

Marx Statue of Libert base

Marx Supermarket

Marx Telephone Poles

Skyline Church

Skyline Ranch

American Fflyer Scenic Panel bridge

American Flyer Two Story House

Block City Fence

Frosted Flakes Billboard - no feet or lights



THE PCA CORNER STORE



ITEMS FOR SALE BY THE PCA

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

Personalized address labels

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels are available from the PCA. The labels include the PCA logo in color and up to four lines of address. Each label is a generous 1 x 2 5/8 inches. The price is \$3.00 per sheet plus \$1.50 P&H for up to three sheets. Please add 20 cents per additional sheet over three.

PCA T-shirt

Navy blue 100% cotton, short sleeve shirt T-shirt with the PCA logo printed on the front in white. The prices are \$18 for small through X-Large, \$19 for XX-Large and \$20 for XXX-Large, shipping included, for each shirt. Please order the next larger size if you are concerned with fit. *** Only Small and 3X are currently in stock ***

PCA ballpoint pen

PCA silver barrel with blue soft grip, black ink ballpoint pen with silver accents. The pen is imprinted *Plasticville Collectors Assn, www.plasticvilleusa.org* in two lines in blue lettering. \$4.00, postpaid.

**** SOLD OUT ** Coffee Mug with PCA logo ** SOLD OUT ****

White ceramic 11 oz. ceramic mug. PCA blue or black logo. \$9.95 or two for \$15.95, postpaid. Please specify your color choice when ordering. Only 24 pieces of black logo mugs were produced. 1 black remaining.

PCA Ball Caps

Dark Blue, Velcro-back ball cap with white PCA logo embroidered on the front. \$13.00 postpaid. 10 remaining

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1. "Welcome to Plasticville" billboard inserts Six identical inserts, sized to fit Plasticville billboard frames depicting a 50's vintage auto passing a billboard on its way into town with the same greeting.
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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.

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PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

It's all about **Trains!**, THE ART OF 3-RAIL SCALE, DVD, Richard Battista, 75 minutes, \$19.95 - \$23.95 Blu-ray. Published by <http://www.toytrainsontracks.com>.

I seem to have "come late to the table" with my review of this DVD as the publisher has previously released three additional videos. The first three seem to center around the building of the benchwork, weathering engines, and adding an elevated trestle system. Let me know if you would like me to acquire and review any of the three preceding videos.

The DVD opens with run bys of some of the author's modified engines, both steam and diesel. There are additional run bys interspersed throughout the video.

It then progresses into a comparison of current scale pieces from MTH with the prototype being modeled. The author prefers to run diesels with fixed pilots as would be found on prototypes. He purchases, as much as possible, models that can be converted from 2 to 3 rail operation and converts them to 3 rail operation as they generally have fixed pilots.

He also prefers to run scale Kadee couplers on both his engines and rolling stock. He does this by changing out the pilot coupler on all of his engines. He also runs two rail cars as much as possible or creates a "transition car" by adding a Kadee coupler to one end of an O scale car in order to be able to connect cars to his engines. He also shows how to make minor modifications to a standard O scale coupler so that it will couple in a straight line with a Kadee coupler.

The video notes that when running engines with fixed pilots that there can be no S curves and a minimum of 72 inch radius curves.

Lots & Lots of Really Big Trains, Giants on the Rails, DVD, widescreen format, 75 minutes, \$14.99. Published by Marshall Publishing & Promotions, Inc.

The DVD consists of four chapters, a bonus trains chapter, and a "how trains work" chapter. The four chapters are accompanied by music by well known musician James Coffey. The songs are the theme song of the video, Casey Jones, Upon This Train, and Clickity-Clack. The bonus section is merely the trains and their sounds without any accompanying music. The "How Trains Work" chapter is narrated by a talking steam engine and diesel engine. Both explain how they work as well as how they are put into motion.

The locomotives in all of the clips are large units. They include the Nickel Plate #765 2-8-4 Berkshire, Southern Pacific's #4449 GS-4 4-8-4 Northern in Daylight colors. The video also included some nice clips of the Union Pacific's #3984 4-6-6-4, Challenger. There are many other trains on this video including some diesels.

I enjoyed the fact that some of the clips were from winter instead of all from fair weather. I was impressed by the fact that a fair

He also notes that shorter drawbars between a steam engine and the tender can be used to improve the prototypical effect, depending upon the radius of the curves on a layout.

The video shows how to lower the pilot on various steam engines. There is also instruction as to how to move in the truck sides on a diesel in addition to hiding the gap between the bottom of the frame and the trucks.

The video concludes with illustrations as to how to create multi-unit consists and videos of prototypical multi-unit consists, including end of the train helpers.

The video has many suggestions as to how to take your high rail layout to the next level regarding rolling stock. The modifications to any of your engines or rolling stock shown in this video should add a more prototypical operation to your current layout

It's all about Trains!, THE ART OF 3-RAIL SCALE is available directly from the publisher at: www.toytrainsontracks.com. I checked Amazon and Barnes and Noble's website but it seems to be only available through the publisher.

PS: My eyes may have been fooling me but it seems as if there is a real person superimposed on a few of the toy train run bys.

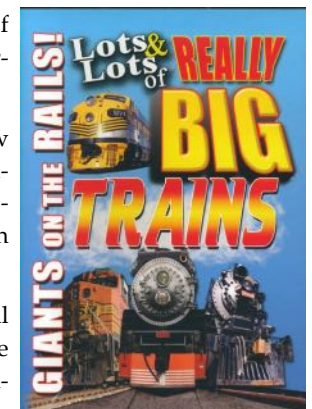


portion of the run bys were of freight consists and not merely tourist trains.

The DVD played well in a window on my Windows computer. No serious degeneration of clarity was noticed when I used the full screen mode on my 24 inch monitor.

I enjoyed the video and feel you will too. This could possibly make a nice Christmas gift for someone who enjoys watching videos of train run bys and the music of James Coffey.

Lots & Lots of Really Big Trains is available online directly from the publisher at www.marshallpublishinginc.com. Merely use the search string lots & lots to find it. It is also available through Amazon for as low as \$10.89 in new condition. The website also has what is noted as Volume 1 at a discounted price of \$9.95.



Murder to Scale, Debra B Schiff, 200 pages, softbound, 4 1/2 X 7 format, \$7.99. Self-published by the author.

I believe this is the first time in all of the years that I have been reviewing books that I am reviewing a book of fiction. As the book is based around toy train operators, collectors, and historical railroad document collectors I felt it may be of interest to you, the members. In addition to that, Ms. Schiff is the art director for Bachmann Industries.

The story opens with Tom McCloud entering the church basement where he is to meet other model railroaders for their periodic operating session. Instead, he finds Bill Murphy, one of the members of his operating group dead. It is pretty obvious from the victim's wounds that he was murdered. In addition, there is a piece of model train missing. Tom is puzzled as to why one steam engine, and not the most valuable one, is missing. Was this a burglary gone awry or is Bill's murder something else.

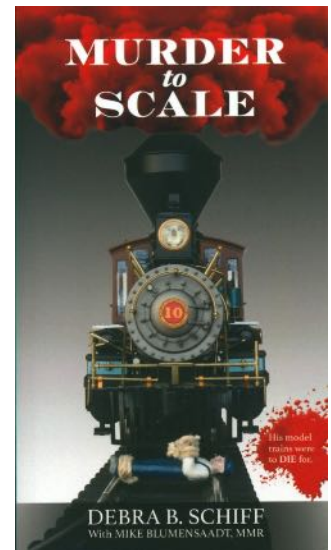
Thus begins Tom's quest to determine who killed Bill and how the missing engine fits into the picture. There are numerous players in this book. Most are connected with model or prototype railroading in some manner or with railroad related

historical documents as well as the usual police personnel and general citizens.

This story has more twists and turns than a Georgia back road. Many times it seems that Tom is close to determining Bill's killer only to be led off down a different trail. Tom's unmasking of who killed Bill and why has a very unique twist. You will have to read the book to find out what that twist is.

There are few books that I do not want to put down and come back to later. Once I started reading this book, I wanted to continue without interruption. I hope you will find the same is true for you.

Murder to Scale is available on Amazon's website for \$7.99. It is also available on Barnes & Noble's website for the same price.



Back In The Day, Growing Up in the Fifties/I Still Haven't Met a Train I Didn't Like, Lou Palumbo, 175 pages, softbound, 6 X 9 inch format, \$12.99. Published by Windy City Publishers. A few black & white photos in Part 1, the *Growing Up in the Fifties* section of the book.

I would not generally review a book that was not solely related to trains. I am making an exception in this instance for two reasons. The author is a member of the PCA and the book contains train related material in Part 2, the *I Still Haven't Met a Train I Didn't Like* section.

There is a nice two-page foreword to the book by Roger Carp of *Classic Toy Trains Magazine*. That is followed by acknowledgements and a short introduction by the author.

Part 1, *Growing Up in the Fifties*, is 87 pages in length. It is the author's reminisces of his growing up in those times. There are four sub-sections: Family and Life in the Neighborhood, Downtown and All Around, Fun with My Friends, and Growing Up and Getting Older. There are a total of forty-nine topics. Most are discussed in two pages with a few running to part of a third. Some of the topics are Italian Weddings, Yo-Yo Man (did you ever have one drop by your elementary school playground?),

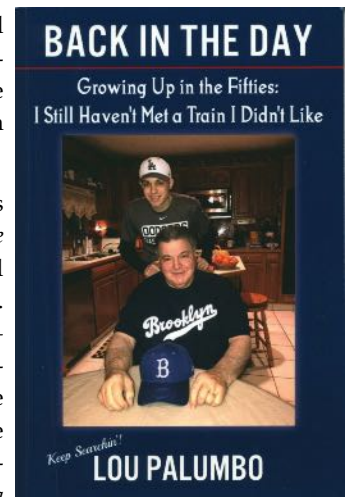
Catholic school, snowball fights, paper route, sputnik, bicycles, and polio. All are written with the author's keen sense of humor.

Part 2, continues his articles published in his *Views from the Underground* column published in *Classic Toy Trains* magazine. All of his *Views from the Underground* columns up to and including the one in the December, 2013 issue of the magazine were previously published in his book *I Never Met a Train I Didn't Like* in January of 2014. This part of the book begins with the January 2014 column and concludes with the March 2018 column.

I enjoyed reading his reminisces and could identify with many of them. I am sure that many of you who live in the cooler parts of the US where snow and cold is prevalent will also.

Back In The Day is available directly from the author through The Underground Railroad Shoppe by telephone at 724-652-4912. It is available on Amazon at the publisher's list price. It does not seem to be available through Barnes & Noble.

PS: I would be remiss if I did not mention his original book, *I Never Met a Train I didn't Like* as well as his DVD, *The Underground Railroad Shoppe*. Both received positive reviews in previous newsletters. You may want to consider adding these to your collection if you order directly from the author. They are priced at \$12.99 and \$14.99, respectively.



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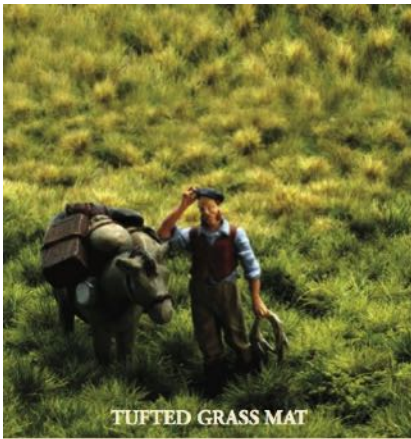
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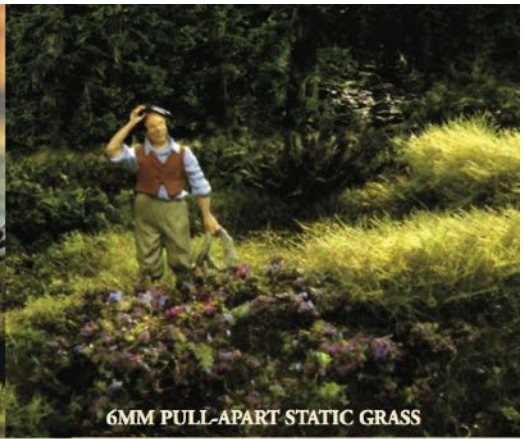
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TUFTED GRASS MAT



2MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS



6MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS

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2MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS (one 11" x 5.5" expandable sheet)
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Item No. 31011



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DRY GRASS
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GOLD
Item No. 31015



6MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS (one 11" x 5.5" expandable sheet)
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WILD GRASS
(medium green with gold highlights)
Item No. 31001



DARK GREEN
(dark green with subtle gold highlights)
Item No. 31002



ALPINE GREEN
(dark green with subtle gold highlights and blown leaves)
Item No. 31003



6MM TUFTS (100 pieces)
MSRP \$10.95 each



MEDIUM GREEN
Item No. 31031



DARK GREEN
Item No. 31032



TAN
Item No. 31033



YELLOW and RED
Item No. 31034



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10MM TUFTS (50 pieces)
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