



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 4

August 2005

Number 3

Bachmann to Create Special Color Building for PCA 5th Anniversary

By The PCA Executive Committee

Bachmann Industries has tentatively agreed to create a special color building to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Plasticville Collectors Association.

John Niehaus has worked with Bachmann's Marketing Manager during the previous year to determine if such a project was feasible. Contact was made the last week of May and a response to creating a special color item for the PCA was a tentative, "Yes".

The Executive Committee then met and decided upon three buildings to submit as their preferences for a 5th anniversary commemorative piece. A formal letter containing the names of those three buildings was submitted to the Marketing Manager on June 14, 2005.

It was requested that "PCA blue" be incorporated into the color scheme of whatever building is created for us.

It is still uncertain as to which building will be created in a special color but it looks as if we PCA members will have a very exclusive piece of Plasticville to add to our collections next year.

We are considering limiting availability of the buildings exclusively to 2006 PCA members only. We do not have specifics on price as that can be determined only after we are certain which piece Bachmann is going to create for us. We hope to have information on price and other specifics in the November newsletter.

Back Issues of Newsletters Now Available on CD

Back issues of *The Villager* for the years 2002 through 2004 are now available on CD. Each CD contains all four newsletters for the specified year. The newsletters on the CD are in PDF format. The cost for each year is \$12, postpaid. A link and instructions on how to download Acrobat Reader is also included on each CD

CDs may be ordered by sending a check or money order payable to Plasticville Collectors Association to: Plasticville Collectors Association, Christine A Niehaus, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207. Be sure to specify that you are ordering a back issue CD and include the desired year when ordering.

Adobe Acrobat Follow-Up Information

I received an email from Tom Fritsch regarding the article in the previous issue of *The Villager* on updating Acrobat Reader. Tom wrote, "I noted in the May 2005 PVG that you are encouraging us to update our Acrobat Reader. The problem is that any version higher than 5.x is not

supported by Windows98 (which I use). When you go to the Adobe web site, it first asks what operating system that you are using. For Windows98 it only offers Acrobat 5.1. I have not had any problems viewing or printing the PVG using 5.1."

New Feature Column Starting in this Issue

The Editor of *The Villager* is pleased to announce that we have a new feature column starting with this issue. John Gottcent approached me some time ago and offered to write columns on a regular basis for the newsletter. John felt that the newsletter needed more articles on how to use and display our plastic village pieces. His column

will run in each issue under the title *Plasticville on the Board*. John will have articles on different subjects in this column in each edition of the newsletter. His new column should make a fine accompaniment to Dominic St. John's already well-read column *Along the "HO" Line*. Welcome aboard, John.

The Villager

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<http://www.plasticvilleusa.org>

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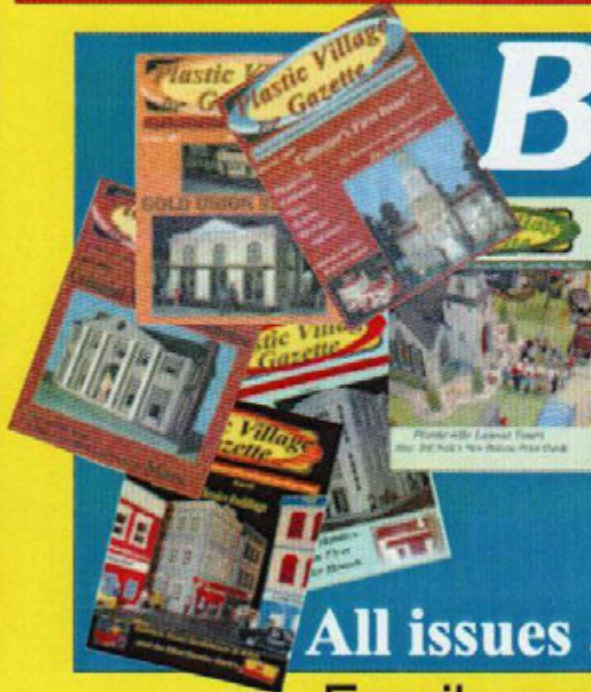
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From the President's Desk



Greetings to all of my fellow PCA Members! Summer is a super Plasticville time of year because of all the flea markets and garage sales, but also because it occasionally gets so unbearably hot that all you can do is stay in the air conditioned house and catalog your collection. Well, that's what I've been doing lately. My Plasticville purchases run the gamut from highly selective to boxloads with who knows what inside. From time to time I need to step back and really see what I have, and what I really need to find. Over the last couple of months I thoroughly went through my collection, box by box, part by part, drawer by drawer, shelf by shelf, and so on. I made a 57-page hand written list of absolutely everything I have. That was a real chore, especially with items like the Ranch House where there are so many box types and color combinations, or the Hospital where you need to check all of the furniture. I finally have a complete inventory and once again promise to never let it get out of hand, (yeah, right!). The most important outcome of this extensive exercise was a better understanding not only of my collection, but also of all the little nuances and idiosyncrasies with Plasticville parts and boxes.

Did you ever notice the "Did You Ever Notice?" web page on the PCA web site? Though not extensive, it's one of my favorite pages because it addresses the little things about our hobby that we may have missed. Once you are at the main PCA site, click on "Information and Stories" and then click on the link for "Did You Ever Notice?". The direct link is: <http://www.plasticvilleusa.org/info/didyounotice.html>. The first item on the web page shows the two different roofs for the Fire Department. One roof accepts the square-based siren, and one roof accepts the convex-based siren. Thanks to PCA Member Tom Fritsch for sending in that information and picture. I noticed when cataloging my collection that the same issue is applicable to the Police Department. It has two different antenna bases. Speaking of Police Departments, PCA Member Josh Erling sent in the next item on the "Did You Ever Notice?" web page; the fact that the late 1990's re-issue of the Police Department actually uses an Apartment

House antenna! Was that a screw up by Bachmann? Or with the ever expanding town of Plasticville, did the Police finally need to get a bigger antenna?

The next item on the page I added myself. I loaded this quite a while ago; it shows two different 1915-200 boxes for the Citizens. The top one is a Type 9A (Red, White, and Blue) box "Citizens with Paint (24) 1915:200". The bottom picture is a Type 8B (white with "O-27") box that just says "Citizens 1915". This latter box came with 32 Citizens. Now this was interesting enough, but in the review of my collection, I actually found two more 1915-200 boxes! One is a Type 8A (white with "O-S") with "Citizens 1915-200". This one is similar to the one previously discussed, but has the "200" suffix, and it goes from Type 8B to 8A. The second one is even more interesting, it's in a Type 9A (red, white, and blue) but has "Citizens with Paint (32) 1915:200". This means that there were two Type 9A boxes, exactly the same, with the same \$2.00 price, but one had 32 citizens, and the other had 24 citizens. Very interesting indeed! A mistake? Or was it cost-adjustment on the part of Bachmann? We may never know....

The next example on the web page compares the FB-1 Frosty Bar box with the 1401 Frosty Bar box. They are essentially identical except for the change in catalog number, and the change in catalog numbers seen on the items listed on the bottom of the box. Similar to the Frosty Bar number change is the switch from the HP-9 to 1400 for the Cape Cod House. This is also shown on the site. Finally, there are a few pictures of other items that Bachmann has made. For example, a set of birthday candle holders shaped as sports players, and a set of salt and pepper shakers. Not shown on the page are other Bachmann items such as a pipe holder, Solarex sunglasses, the "Americana" series of models, and of course, the popular "Birds of the World" and "Dogs of the World" series.

Well I hope this article spurs you towards two things: first, to catalog your collection, if you haven't already, and see what you discover. Secondly to visit the "Did You Ever Notice?" web page on the PCA site. Hopefully you will be able to submit one of the eccentricities you find in your collection. It would be greatly appreciated by all members. Send your ideas directly to me at president@plasticvilleusa.org Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Pen Tips

Glenn Bowman says, "To tell the difference between repro and original vintage weathervanes on BN-1's, lay it down so the horse's head is facing left (or haw), the horses large thigh muscle will be defined on it's side. If it is smooth, or undefined, it is a repro. Also, the hair on the neck (mane) is also defined instead of 3 triangle bumps.

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Vice Presidential Insights

I will admit that I had a great time going to the TCA Convention in Seattle this past June. I met several members and even got a picture of myself and fellow member Glenn Raymond.



PCA Vice President Doug Gilliatt (left) had the opportunity to meet charter member Glenn Raymond during the TCA convention held Seattle earlier this year.

I managed to pick up a few pieces from Glenn and some of the other vendors but pickings were slim and in some cases expensive.

It is hard to believe that our organization is coming up on its fifth year of existence. I wonder what surprises might be in store for us in the coming years? Hopefully our organization continues to grow and attract new members. And hopefully our existing members continue to support our organization by sending in articles/photos etc. of interest to our members. While new membership is essential to the continuation and expansion of our organization, we must also continue to be a source of interest/learning to our existing membership.

I hope everyone had a Happy and Safe Summer and found some goodies to enhance their collection.

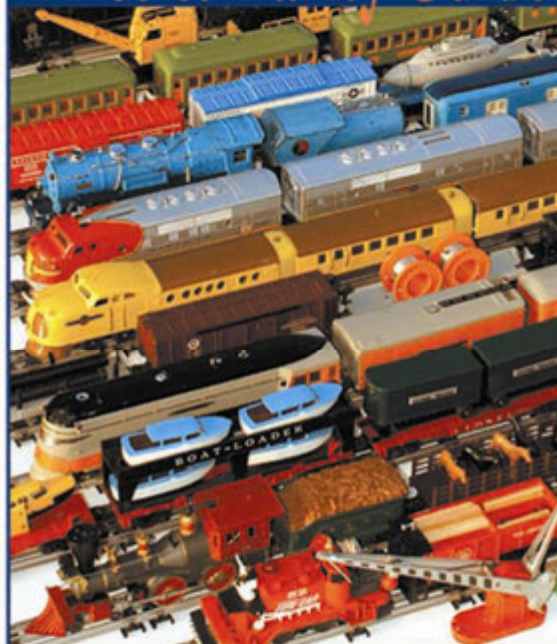
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Toy collectors always speak about "The Big Toy Box At Sears" in reverential tones. When this nearly 1" thick book was published back in 1997 it was the first (and only time) that ALL of the boys' toys pages from the the legendary Sears Christmas Wishbooks of the 1950's and 1960's had ever been reprinted in all their original full-color glory. Even the paper stock reproduced the original. But after the initial low-key sales push "The Big Toy Box At Sears" was soon forgotten and the remaining few copies stacked in a warehouse. What a find it was when we unearthed a stash of these incredible books, still sealed in their original shrinkwrap!

A huge 8 1/2" x 11" big and 584 pages thick, this massive volume contains all the toys collectors want to remember... Marx playsets, Lionel trains, Tonka trucks, robots, slot cars, G.I. Joe, cowboy and James Bond toys and pages and pages more. These books are collectibles themselves and are certain to increase in value.

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Plasticville on the Board

To Glue or Not to Glue

By John Gottcent

Welcome to a new column in *The Villager*—the Plasticville Users Group (PUG). This one's for those of us who are less interested in acquiring a red-roofed Post Office or a Davy Crockett log cabin, and more interested in how to use and display our plastic buildings, whether as parts of train layouts or as dioramas on their own.

Each issue we'll focus on some thoughts related to an aspect or two of arranging our villages to the best effect. And we'll invite feedback from those of you out there who have similar interests.

So let's start this time with that nasty word: *glue*. It's a four-letter word, literally and figuratively, for purist collectors, and with good reason. Glue (or any of its analogs, like tape) can damage, if not ruin, the value of a rare item.

But are there times when some sort of adhesive is advisable—perhaps even necessary—for Plasticville items? Though purists may cringe, my answer is—sometimes, yes.

First, there are some smaller items that just beg to be held together by more than interlocking parts. The corn crib, the outhouse, the telephone booth, and the saw horses (part of the House Under Construction set) come to mind. Yes, if you're skillful and patient, you might be able to get them to hang together for a while, but unless you're planning to sell your collection someday, a little fastener might be in order.

Also, problems can develop with older interlocking pieces that have been assembled and disassembled repeatedly over the years. After a while, the friction that held those corners together begins to get smoothed out, and the slightest rattle from a passing steam engine can collapse your Police Station or Cape Cod house.

The question then becomes—what kind of adhesive to use? One thing I agree with the purists on is—avoid styrene cement. (The only exceptions might be the case of a broken piece you want to permanently repair, or an attempt at a little kit-bashing.) The problem is, styrene actually melts the plastic parts into a permanent bond, so you will never be able to change your mind once you use it.

Unfortunately, most of the glued pieces I find at train shows and flea markets seem to involve styrene. Does that make them worthless? No, as we'll see in a moment. But if *you're* the one doing the gluing, try something else.

White glue (such as *Elmer's*) holds almost as well as styrene, and it can usually (though not always) be undone via hot water soaking. Be advised, though—such soaking can fade colors and, in extreme cases, cause warping.

Occasionally I have resorted to cellophane tape, especially to hold together older interlocking walls. Apply a thin column of tape to the *inside* of a corner, and spread it as evenly as possible over both sets of “bricks.” Tape can be removed later, and if it does leave residue, a little *Goo Gone* usually does the trick. Besides, the affected spots will not be visible from outside the structure.

However, I've found the most useful (and overlooked) adhesive for our hobby to be rubber cement. Small dabs can hold corners together, keep roofs from falling off, and hold people and animals in place (especially useful for non-Plasticville folks who lack supporting platforms to help them stand upright). So far, I've seen no damage to colors or plastic from this cement—and when you don't want it anymore, it rolls up into neat little balls and peels off easily without a trace.

Now what about those buildings you've picked up here and there that are already glued—usually with styrene cement? Time to toss them into the junkpile?

No. One valuable rule of thumb I learned a while ago in this hobby is—never throw *anything* out! You never know when it will come in handy.

Those glued pieces open up a world of opportunities, for they are the ones you can paint, write graffiti on, or kit-bash with a clear conscience. In fact, sometimes the more run down they are, the better they serve your purposes.

How about turning a glued and scratched 5 and 10 into an abandoned building in a run-down part of town? If the window inserts are missing, replace them with plywood (real or computer-generated), and scribble some signs saying “Keep Off” or “Condemned.”

Or take an old, glued large supermarket and turn it into a movie theater. With a little ingenuity you can add a marquee and appropriate signs—and you won't have to worry about ruining a valuable collector's item.

Well, that's it for this issue. If you have some feedback on these ideas, or some thoughts about other things you'd like discussed in future PUG columns, contact me at jandjgott@juno.com. Meanwhile, happy villaging!

Pen Tips

Share your knowledge and be rewarded. Submit a “How To” or a little known fact about Plasticville, Bachmann, or any other plastic village manufacturer and receive a PCA pen for your efforts. You will receive a custom engraved PCA pen in PCA blue with gold-toned accents when the tip is published in *The Villager*. Send your tips to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org or mail them to Pen Tips, PCA, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207

What would happen if...



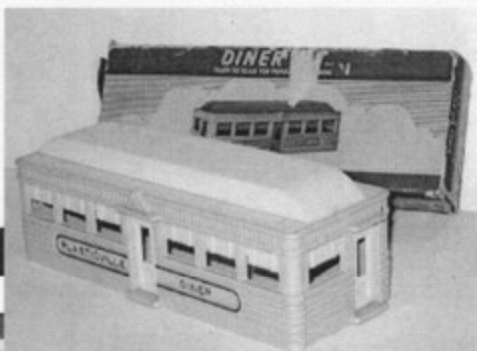
Thousands of fine people lost their lifetime hobbies in the recent hurricane season. Collectibles ranging from all kinds of plastic collectibles to basement model railroad layouts and paper ephemera were sadly destroyed. Did insurance help many of these victims? In too many cases, the answer was, "NO."

I've been a collector all of my life—even before I became the owner of a firm that specializes in providing insurance for thousands of collectibles. I know what it's like to lose the treasures of a lifetime hobby. Here's a lesson I learned that I'd like to pass along to you: Homeowners insurance is rarely, if ever, adequate for your cut glass collectibles. Take a minute now and call, write or e-mail us for brochures that can help your peace of mind.

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Unknown Building Manufacturer Identified

By Chuck Donovan with photos by Les Mathis

We can now identify the unknown firehouse illustrated in the May issue of *The Villager*. Our thanks to Chuck Donovan, a non-member, for the following information. Our thanks also to Les Mathis, another non-member, for supplying the pictures used in this article and the ones in the May issue.

Chuck Donovan writes, "I noted the question on the history of the curved front fire station. This building came in a Renwal Manufacturing Company of Mineola, N.Y. toy set #263, hence the fire station, although neither numbered nor hallmarked, is known as the 263 fire station.

Also in this boxed set were two small three and one-half inch Renwal fire trucks, a ladder truck and an old-fashion pumper truck, both in red hard plastic. This set was catalogued in 1955 only and is therefore one of the

rarer Renwal toy pieces and being fire related is very desirable.

This same garage mold was also used by Renwal in their #218 Toytown Service Garage Set. The garage is the same except that it came in a variety of color combinations of red, yellow, blue, green and marbled colors and without any printing above the doors. The 218 set was catalogued in 1954 and 1955 but the garage, although not as scarce as the red Fire Department version, is still difficult to locate.

It came only in hard plastic although Payton Products, Inc. of New York later purchased the molds and produced a polyethylene (soft plastic) version in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

I don't have a picture of the Renwal #263 set but one is pictured in Bill Hanlon's *Dimestore Dreams* book at the top of page 136.



The manufacturer and also the item number of the firehouse in these pictures have been identified as a Renwal #263 firehouse. It is one of the rarer Renwal pieces as it is both a plastic building and fire related both of which increases its desirability.

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Along the “HO” Line

The 2616 House Trailer

By Dominic St. John

Hello to everyone in Plasticville. I hope all is well with the collectors of our little plastic villages. I know it has been a while since I've submitted anything to the Villager. I do wish to get back into the swing of things and send some new articles. As I have mentioned before I am not an HO expert. I am still learning as I go. If I can help add to the knowledge of the HO line, along with any help from our other HO friends, it would make me a happy fellow. I would always accept and pass along anything submitted from those with the HO line of Plasticville as an interest. I would love to cooperate on any future articles Along the “HO” line. If anyone would like to hop on board, please do.

Now it seems that with the warmer weather came the warmer weather interests. That would be old cars and trucks! You see, my 52 Chevy kept me busy in the garage. I've spent a lot of time working under the hood, and car and dash board etc. I still have many things to do to the old car. I guess you're never really done. For now, though, we will attend an occasional cruise night or car meet in the local areas. Before you know it the summer will be nearing an end and the fall will bring the train hobby back to the forefront. With the old car activities comes traveling along the roads of our great Nation. This time of year also brings family vacations. Some will hitch up the old camper and set out for a summer trip. Now I know the Plasticville HO House Trailer is not your simple camper. You would probably never see it on the interstate. Still it seemed to be the right kit to add at this time of year. In the following I would like to list what is found in the catalogs for the 2616 House Trailer. The different kits where it was found as well as the colors I have come across. Let the trip begin!

The Plasticville HO 2616 Trailer was cataloged as new in 1963. It was also available, that same year, as the 3616 Blister Pac kit. It is first found in the Type 3 or Scenic Litho box as the “2616-100 House Trailer” It is not called

“House Trailer” in the catalog. I will continue to refer to it as that because that is how you will find it when seen in the box. As with many of the HO Plasticville kits, the House Trailer most likely had a prototypical model on which it was based. The actual catalog description, for the HO House Trailer, makes this very statement. “Every detail of this mobile home is patterned after the real

thing.” I do remember seeing, some time ago, an actual full size house trailer on a web sight. It was the exact copy of this very model. For the life of me, though, I haven't been able to find it again. It may have been found on the Plasticville Groups pages. Maybe someone has a recollection of this also? It would be a nice thing to show the very trailer that Bachmann used when modeling the HO House Trailer.



This kit had a short run as it is only found cataloged, as the 2616 Trailer for just three years. It is missing from the 1966 catalog. That year also finds new HO packaging. The HO kits are now found in what has come to be known as the Picture Frame box. Maybe that is the reason for the end of the House Trailer kit? It will reappear in 1979 when Bachmann introduces a “whole new line of building kits”. The “HO Scale Scenic Classics” is now the new home of the 2556 Mobile House and Car kit. I will return to this kit a little later.

I would like to stay with the first HO House Trailer kit for just a little longer. We still need to talk about the colors it was molded in. I would also like to touch upon the many detailed parts supplied with it. Now when it comes to colors, it is not unusual to find HO kits molded in two different shades. I am sure many are aware that Plasticville kits are also found molded in reverse colors. I have found the first HO House Trailer molded in Turquoise and White. It has been my experience to find the main body, of the trailer, molded in Turquoise most often. This seems, to me, to be the most common kit. I also have the kit molded in reverse with the main body in White. This may be a little less common. Of course these

are just my opinions. I may be completely wrong in my assumption as to the scarcity of any particular color.

I am also quite fascinated as to the many parts Bachmann would supply in their HO kits. The HO House Trailer has a whole array of detail parts. Along with the main body which consists of five pieces you will find two roof parts. There are two doors that need to be snapped in. Counting the two doors and all the windows you will have to install sixteen plastic window inserts. These

are to simulate jalousie windows. To exit either of the two doors you will need both two step stair sections. Once down the stairs you can seek the shade underneath the large patio awning. That adds another four parts to the list. You still have three wheel and axle pieces to snap under the chassis. Now if I haven't missed anything else there is one more item to list. That is the double tanks found up front just behind the hitch. That adds up to twenty parts in this one kit!

I would like to add the new, and improved, HO House Trailer to this article now. I mentioned how it reappeared in 1979 in the HO Scenic Classics line of kits. Those kits

will make for a future article. For now I will just add some new colors to the list. The 2556 Mobile Home and Car, as it is now cataloged, is shown on the cover molded in Yellow and White. Again it can be found molded in

reverse fashion. I also have the Mobile Home molded in an almost golden mustard yellow shade with an off white almost cream supporting color. I can only guess as to the more rare combination here. That is, of course, if there is one color scarcer than another.

In the photos you can see the

many color combinations along with the boxes I have. I hope I was able to fill in any blanks you may have had regarding the Plasticville HO House Trailer. If I have missed anything here it will be by my lack of complete knowledge on this subject. I try to use the experience of my collection when writing these articles. I occasionally like to inject my own theories as well. Again, I would be happy to add any help offered by any other Plasticville collectors. I would love to credit any and all who wish to see their own opinions in these pages. In closing, I hope we all have a great summer. See you in the fall and happy Plasticville collecting.



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Plasticville Built Ups for O and HO

By John Niehaus



Two of the new Bachmann built up buildings, the HO scale House Under Construction and the O scale Town Hall. The pieces were to have clear coverings over the openings in the boxes. Note the heavy plastic sleeves that were substituted for the window material. It is not known if all of the pieces received these sleeves as other built up items have been seen in hobby shops without either the window material or the sleeves.

Bachmann has finally entered the built up building market. They have done it with what I feel are some real winners. As I related in an article in the May issue of the newsletter there are twelve O scale built ups and eight HO scale built ups. All of the buildings come in either the new green or blue boxes. The same brief history of Plasticville USA is included on both boxes and includes the mention of the Plasticville Collectors Association.

The boxes have an inner liner that slides out of either the side or back of the box. The graphics on the inner liner are varying shades of green, blue, yellow and orange simulating the earth, sky, and clouds.

The buildings are held in place by a vacuum formed sleeve slightly larger than the silhouette of the building. The House Under Construction along with the small

accessory pieces was completely encased in the sleeve. An opening in the sleeve for the Town Hall left the clock and bell tower above its sleeve. I presume it was done that way due to the very distinct possibility of damaging the weathervane if the entire building would have been encased.

The boxes have a front and top opening for ease in viewing. It is my understanding from communicating with Bachmann that the openings were to be covered with a clear window material but were inadvertently shipped without it. My two review pieces have a clear plastic sleeve covering the front, top, bottom, and back of the box in place of the omitted window material. If you are a collector of packaging varieties it would be advisable to get the pieces you want now as I believe that future

releases are to have the omitted window material in place rather than the sleeve. I also noticed that the back of the O scale box has only eight illustrations on it rather than twelve. The missing illustrations are the new additions to the line for 2005. My guess is that the next run of boxes will have all twelve buildings on the back.



A packet of accessories is included with the House Under Construction including two nicely painted construction workers.

It will take a bit of space in your display area if you intend to collect these in their boxes. The buildings that I received for review were the HO scale House Under Construction and the O scale Town Hall. The House Under Construction box is 12-1/2 inches wide by 7 inches high by 9-1/2 inches deep. The size of this box seems to be a bit of overkill as the building is only about 7-3/4 inches tall and a bit over 6 inches wide. I must presume that this box is used for other buildings that require the additional space. The Town Hall box is a whopping 13-1/2 inches tall by 11-1/4 inches wide by 10 inches deep. The building utilizes all of the space in the box quite well as the top of the weathervane is just a bit over one inch from the top of the box and its sides nearly touch the sides of the box.

The House Under Construction comes in black walls with cream rafters, door frames, and window frames. The walls are nearly smooth and as such do not give the effect of stucco walls as I have seen on some buildings in the past. The back wall windows and doors are molded into the wall while the side porch and front doors can be opened.

This piece comes with a packet of accessories. The accessories included two very nicely painted construction workers, a two-piece wheelbarrow, a mortar box with molded-in tools, a pallet with various bags, a sand pile with shovel, two sawhorses, a ladder that almost reaches the highest roof, a pile of lumber, one board with a

hammer resting on it, another set of two boards, and what looks like a small barrel.

The Town Hall comes with a 50 star flag on a silver flagpole. The weathervane and the garlands under the clock faces are painted gold. The hands and the numerals on the faces of the clocks are painted black. All of the painting is crisp and clean. The walls of the building are brick red. The main roof is light grey. The clock and bell tower walls and roof are of a light cream. Both the front and back door opened easily on my review piece. The only pieces that did not seem to be glued in place are the two railings on the roof.

It is evident from viewing the inside of both buildings



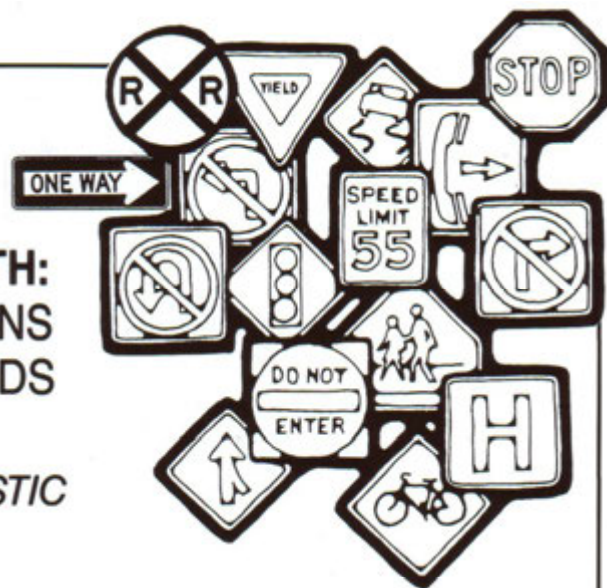
The graphics on the inner liner are varying shades of green, blue, yellow and orange simulating the earth, sky, and clouds.

that these are not just glued up versions of the current knocked down production items but are from new tooling. It looks as if both buildings were assembled with styrene glue as dabs of it are evident in the corners where it was applied.

The Town Hall is catalog priced at \$42 and the House Under Construction is priced at \$26. At these prices they should be able to compete with the built up buildings from other manufacturers.

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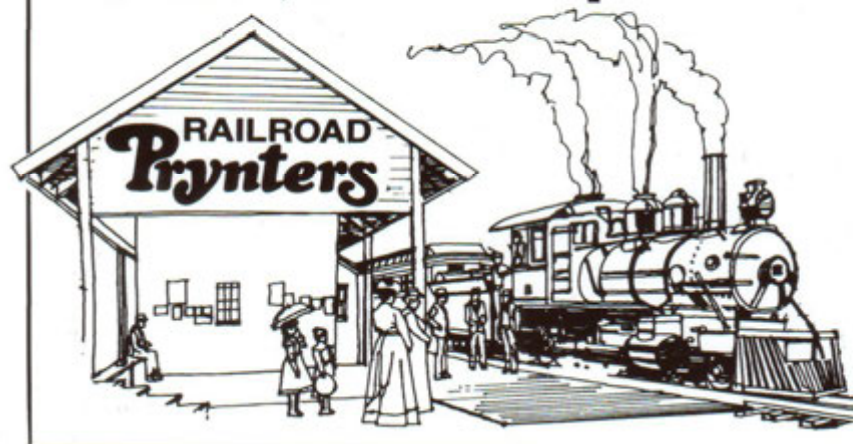
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Giant Monsters Attack Plasticville!

Photos by Grant Bowers

My Plasticville layout has been attacked by monsters. I was able to catch the two villains with my camera. One is Godzilla (to be expected) and the other is J.R. (named appropriately enough after Jeremy Roenick). Thought

you'd get a chuckle! *These pictures were so amusing that I had to share them with all of you.* Editor.



Two monsters attack Plasticville. Godzilla and J.R., Grants' cat, named in honor of Jeremy Roenick, wreak havoc on Grant's S scale layout



Where does a monster cat sit when visiting the town of Plasticville? If Grant Bowers' cat J.R. is an example, anywhere it pleases



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The PCA Corner Store Items for sale by the PCA

Visit the PCA website to view all of the items offered.

Send payment and the description of item desired to Plasticville Collectors Association, Christine A Niehaus, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 unless noted otherwise noted.

Personalized address labels

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels are available from the PCA. The labels will include the PCA logo in color and up to four lines of address. Each label is a generous 1 x 2 5/8 inches. \$1.00 per sheet plus 50 Cents P&H regardless of the number of sheets ordered.

PCA T-shirt

Navy blue 100% cotton, short sleeve shirt T-shirt with the PCA logo printed on the front in white. Sizes available are Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large, and XXX-Large. 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. An order form is available on the PCA website, or request a form from the Secretary at the address listed above.

Back Issues of *The Villager* on CD

Each CD contains all four newsletters for the specified year. The newsletters on the CD are in PDF format. The cost for each year is \$12, postpaid. A link and instructions on how to download Acrobat Reader is also included on each CD

Additional items with the PCA logo

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

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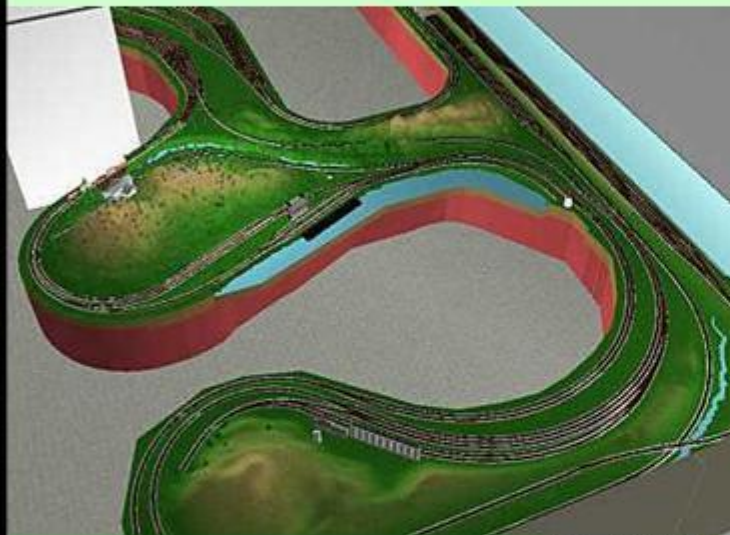
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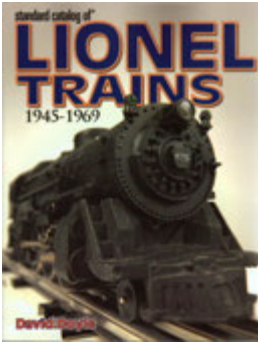


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Product Reviews



Standard Catalog of Lionel Trains 1945-1969, by David Doyle, published by kp books of Iola, Wisconsin. When I received this book I was surprised at its quality. It is an approximately 8-1/2 x 11 inch format, 400 page, perfect bound volume. All of the pages are printed in full color on shiny paper.

The beginning of the book contains the obligatory dedication and acknowledgements and an introduction.

The introduction is a very brief history of Lionel trains as one would expect. The introduction also contains a timeline of major changes in both the trains themselves and their boxes. Finally it lists the four most well known train collecting organizations. After the introduction it gets down to business with sixteen chapters, two appendices, a glossary, and an index.

The first chapter is an explanation of how to use the catalog. This includes how the information is organized, aids to dating (determining the age) of a piece, condition and rarity. The book sets rarity ratings from 1 to 8 with 1 being the most common. There is also a somewhat lengthy section on both trucks and box evolution during the period covered in this book. Lastly a discourse on scale vs. gauge and what is Super O is included in this chapter.

There are an additional six sections in the book. Each of these sections contains from one to six chapters. The subjects of these sections include Locomotives, Freight & Maintenance of Way Cars, Passenger Cars, Accessories, Catalogs, and Cataloged Sets.

This book is loaded with information! Each chapter has an informational preface of from two to six paragraphs.

Additionally there is brief historical preface preceding the listings for each piece in the book.

The largest section is the Freight & Maintenance of Way Cars section which is further broken down into a chapter each on cabooses, crane cars, flat cars, gondola and dump cars, hopper cars, tank and vat cars, and house cars. I had never heard the term house car before but the author was kind enough to explain it by stating, "During the first half of the 20th century most goods shipped in the United States traveled in what railroads termed "house cars". This meant enclosed cars such as box stock, refrigerator, and poultry cars."

The chapter in the book listing accessories does list all the Lionel Plasticville. My only regret is that the illustrations are of the boxes only. It would have been an added bonus for Plasticville collectors to see both the box and contents even though the pieces are just stock period Plasticville.

To the best of my knowledge this is the most comprehensive book as far as listing variations since the early Greenberg books. The inclusion of over 1,000 full color photos makes this an excellent reference book.

I recommend this book even if you are not a Lionel collector. The information in the introduction, the prefaces to each chapter, and before each piece listing by itself makes this book worth its price.

Standard Catalog of Lionel Trains 1945-1969 may be purchased from kp books and yes, their name is all lower case letters. The mailing address is 700 East State Street, Iola, WI 549990-0001, 800 726-9966. The price is 29.99 plus shipping.

It may also be ordered on line at www.krause.com. I found it a bit difficult to initially locate the book on the website. You may also be able to purchase it from your favorite hobby shop or bookstore. I found it listed for \$23.99 on Barnes & Noble's website. It may also be available in their stores.



Road Signs 885, published by Hughes Research. Bob Hughes has put together an impressive collection of traffic signs on CD that can be reproduced in any scale desired. The CD contains two folders. The *Read These Files First* folder

contains a file named *Thanks For Your Purchase*. This file contains useful information on how to scale the images on the CD to the desired size. There is also a conversion chart that makes scaling the various signs a bit easier. I might add that Bob also included a label conversion chart on the CD holder.

The signs on the CD are all in BMP format and broken down into various categories. This makes choosing the desired sign much easier. The sign categories include blue help (45), campground (128), destination signs (88), European informative (45), European regulative (29), European warning (33), green (61), Mileposts (5), New Zealand road (44), regulatory (113), rest areas (11), road work (30), speed (14), state (138), white (22), and yellow (79). I found it helpful to turn on thumbnail viewing when browsing the signs. Doing that should also enable you to quickly pick the sign or signs you wish to print.

The author suggests you use Microsoft Word or Publisher to print your choice of signs. To that I will add the option of PowerPoint. To get the signs into the desired size takes very little effort. One must insert the desired file into their current document and then format it to the correct size. My preference is Publisher if you do

not have PowerPoint. Word seemed the least desirable of the three because of the need to also set wrapping in that program. I found sizing to be fairly simple in all three programs after I took his suggestion and measured signs in my neighborhood.

One question that is sure to come up when looking at the various signs is, "What if I want a different speed limit or route number on my sign than what is available on the CD?". If you have PowerPoint on your PC it is fairly simple to change the values on a sign. All you need to do is to insert the sign, place an appropriately colored box over the current value, add a text box with the desired value in the appropriate color and background and then save it as a JPG or BMP.

My only wish is that signs containing both text and arrows would have been supplied with arrows pointing both ways. Other than that one small thing I feel this is a



198 Train Pictures. Dave Smalley of Mulberry, Arkansas recently sent me a review copy of his 198 train pictures CD. The CD contains mostly engines of United States or British manufacture. It does

however contain others that are not US or British including one that seemed to be of Chinese origin and another of Hungarian origin. There is also a captioned newspaper article picturing Illinois Central engine #382. You may recall that #382 was the engine Casey Jones was driving the day he was killed in a collision with another train.

Viewing the pictures was very simple. I put the CD in my computer and selected *View a Slideshow of the Images* from the Windows XP selection box that popped up. Once the slideshow started I was treated to over 30 minutes of various train pictures.

You do not need a computer to enjoy this slide show. It will play from any DVD player. The slideshow on the DVD is broken into two shows, #1 and #2. All I had to do was put the disk in my DVD player and press the number of the show I wanted to see when they appeared on the screen. I chose Show #1 and the CD played through all 198 pictures.

CD well worth purchasing if you want to add this type of detail to your layout. I found this CD to probably have more than enough signs to satisfy even the most discriminating modeler.

Road Signs 885 can be purchased for \$14.95 plus \$3.00 shipping directly from Hughes Research. Payment may be sent to Bob Hughes C/O Hughes Research, 6630 Parrin Court, Riverside, CA 92506-5654. Be sure to specify you wish to order Road Signs 885 as Bob sent four additional CDs that I will review in future newsletters. These CDs include: Building Signs 959, Train Tips 773, Train Links 1630, and Building Ideas 1000+. Each of these is also priced at \$14.95 but there is no additional shipping charge if ordered with Road signs 885.

The pictures displayed in sizes from about 3 x 5 up to full screen on the computer and most were full screen on the TV. I noticed that there were a few artist illustrations and one antique postcard among the pictures. With the exception of three of four black and white pictures all are quite sharp.

An added feature of the CD is that all the pictures are in JPG format. The information I received with the CD stated, "you can also use it in your computer to print out any of the pictures you wish". I found the pictures in a sub-folder of the Slideshow folder with the title Untitled Slideshow.

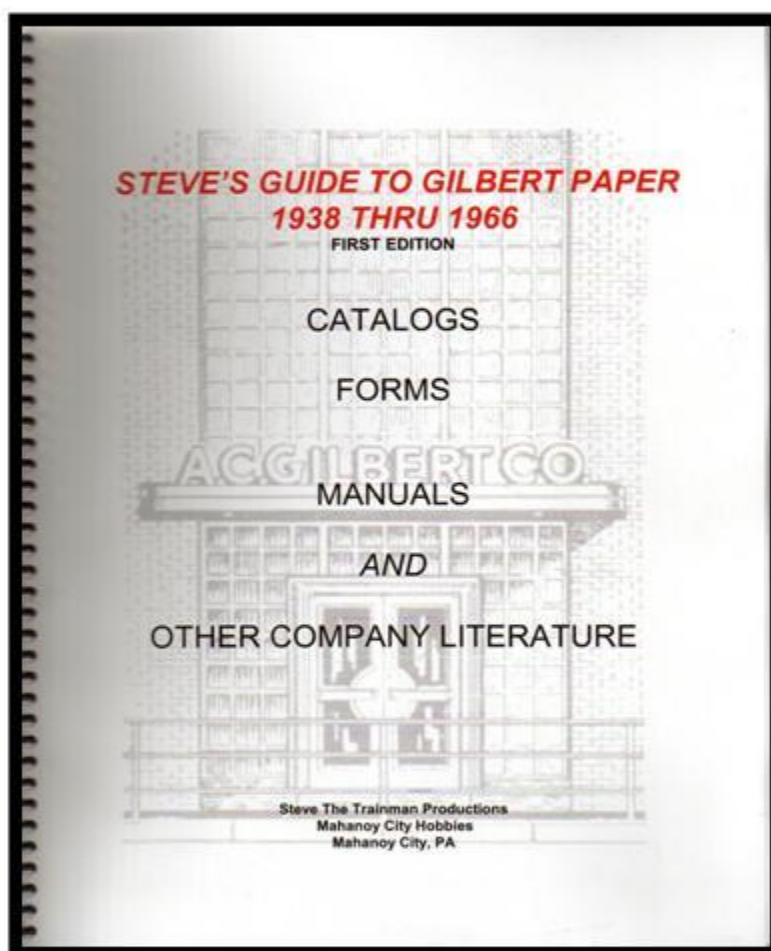
You may purchase the 198 Trains CD directly from Dave Smalley by sending \$7.00 plus \$1.25 postage and handling to him at Dave Smalley, PO Box 295, Mulberry, AR 72947. Be sure to specify that you are ordering the 198 Trains CD.

Dave also sent along a copy of his 51 train sounds CD. This CD contains clips of various steam and diesel train sounds. Each sound is separated by about a 15 second interval. I found this to be nice as the sounds do not seem to run together but I felt that the interval could be shorter and not reduce the overall effect. Some of the tracks are very short while others stretch to over one minute in length. Track 10 ran for over two minutes. This CD is also priced at \$7.00 plus \$1.25 postage from the same address.

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Welcome New Members

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster

Philip Caolo, Springfield, MA
Fred W.J. Young, Moorestown, NJ
Frank G Buono, Philadelphia, PA
Jim P Farace, Glenville, PA
Keith E Jones, Abbotsford, WI
John A Fossa, Lakewood, NJ
Robert A Passero, Glastonbury, CT

as of July 1, 2005. Their names are now listed in the on line roster.

John L Shaffer, Upper Marlboro, MD
Michael N Murphy, Toledo, OH
Peter Pucak, Jr, Clarence, NY
Raymond J Phillips, Sudbury, MA
Stephen A Lattanzio, Philadelphia, PA
Gordon C Kelley, Lyons, WI
Donald E Smith Jr, Glen Arm, MD

Proposed Members

The following have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association. The names of all proposed members must be published for the review of the general membership before being accepted as

Robert J McGurk, Bethel Park, PA
Michael Marziliano, Marlboro, NJ
Mark A Fabian, Basking Ridge, NJ
Don Rosa, Elk Grove, CA

members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls if no objection to such action is received prior to October 1, 2005.

Fred J Saylor, Canton, OH
Don R House, Ringwood, IL
Mark R Lembersky, Seattle, WA

Notes from the Secretary Treasurer

Incorrect Email addresses

Please send me your current email address if you did have not been receiving email messages from me or the PCA secretary. Your lack of notification probably

Ed Cedro, #01-80, sused64@cin.net
John Fossa, #05-344, johnafossa@optonline.net
Jim Heider, #04-283, jim@thirdwave.net
Ken Malm, #02-132, kenmalm42@juno.com

indicates that I have an incorrect email address. The email address listed after your name is the one currently in our records. Please help me keep our records accurate.

Gary Chase, #03-237, gmchase@mcttelecom.com
Phillip Coduti, #04-287, plcodu@inland.com
Charles A Lowe, charles.a.lowe/na/invista@invista.com
Charles Bryner, #02-88, bryner@attbi.com

Member Recruiting Packet

By the start of the fall train shows you should be able to order member recruiting packets from me. These will be available at no charge. All you will have to do is send me a request stating how many packets you would like.

The packets will consist of an envelope, pre-addressed

to the PCA Secretary. Inside each envelope will be a membership application, a promotional flyer, and a sheet with some basic PCA information. Look for an email from me announcing them or look for an announcement in the November issue of *The Villager*.



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- BL-6 WATCHMAN SHANTY CHIMNEY
- BL-7 LOADING PLATFORM CHIMNEY
- BL-8 SWITCH TOWER CHIMNEY
- BL-10 NEW ENGLAND RANCHER ANTENNA
- BL-11 NEW ENGLAND RANCHER CHIMNEY HALF
- BL-15 COLONIAL MANSION CHIMNEY HALF
- BL-16 POLICE ANTENNA
- BL-17 POLICE ANTENNA BASE
- BL-18 POLICE LITE BASE AND GLOBE
- BL-19 BANK,SCHOOL,POST OFFICE LITE BASE &GLOBE
- BL-20 SCHOOL HOUSE WEATHERVANE
- BL-21 TOWN HALL WEATHERVANE
- BL-22 FROSTY BAR STOOL
- BL-23 FROSTY BAR SIGN (\$3.50 each)
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- BL-25 SMALL BARN VENT CAP W/HOLE
- BL-26 SMALL BARN VENT CAP W/O HOLE
- BL-28 COLONIAL CHURCH CROSS
- BL-31 PARISH CHURCH CROSS
- BL-32 SMALL COUNTRY CHURCH CROSS
- BL-33 SPLIT LEVEL RAIN SPOUT (short)
- BL-34 SPLIT LEVEL RAIN SPOUT (long)
- BL-39 TURNPIKE LITE HOLDER
- BL-40 TURNPIKE CONE (4 pcs set \$2.00)
- BL-42 FACTORY STAIR RAILING
- BL-49 HAYWAGON STAKE (8 pcs set \$2.00)
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- BL-56 CAPE COD CHIMNEY
- BL-57 RANCH HOUSE CHIMNEY

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- LT.BRN ___ DK.BRN ___ LT.GREY ___ DK.GREY ___
- LT.BRN ___ DK.BRN ___ LT.GREY ___ DK.GREY ___
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- WHITE ___
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Use this ad as your order form. Simply enter the quantity of each color of an item you want on the line to the right of the color.

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The Villager Classified Ads

Note:

Member information such as name, address, email address, and member number should not be considered part of the word count. Telephone numbers will be included in the ad only if they are part of the submitted ad.

Classified ads run for four consecutive issues unless a change is made to the ad or notice is given to remove it. The month and year at the end of each ad notes the last issue in which that particular ad will appear.

For Sale

Election Special! Don't know who might win? Don't trust either one? Beef up your own homeland security with a Jr. Chief, 198, for \$325. Get your own Interceptor Squadron, 5607, for \$425. Direct it all with colored citizens (whose vote you can take for granted) centrally – with your own public buildings, PB-8, for \$400 and grandstand from, 1890, Racing Accessories \$750. #02-154, Robert Spivey, Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 633-6777 (Aug 05)

0400 Mobile home, cream/blue, mint \$60 HS-6 Hospital, complete, missing one tab on steps, tattered box \$30 AD-4 Air administration building, incomplete, good for parts \$10 Above prices plus shipping. factf@juno.com #02-87 Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 (Nov 05)

For Trade

Have green door for brown marble shanty light fixture, police chimney cap and corner for the red lights, motel door for the corn crib floor, WPLA antenna base for windmill generator housing, BBQ for shade tree,

Wanted

Porch roof and porch floor for red w/dark grey roof LH4 2-story Colonial house. 2 yellow farm implement wagon stakes. K-Line catalogs. Figures and accessories for K-Lineville buildings. Loading dock roof for K-Line factory. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (Nov 05)

Any marbled walls, etc, for the switch tower, workman's shanty, and the water tower, etc. #02-93, Gerry Fuglewicz, 11262 Sunrise Dr, East Aurora, NY, 14052, GFuglewicz@aol.com 716-655-0223 (Nov 05)

I am looking for figures from the animal sets: cats and standing ducks. I will buy or trade. (I have some pieces of the dairy barn and ranch house.) E-mail me at

It is suggested that the names of pieces being offered in the classified ads follow the names found in reference material such as price guides or catalogs.

Ads may be edited to conform to both the suggested naming convention and to bring them to fewer than 50 words if payment for the excess words is not included with the ad.

6 REALISTIC HO scale model kits. All kits are unassembled, never used and are in their original boxes. Boxes are in excellent condition. Kits are #338---Small Town church, #391---2-Story House, #392---Cottage, #395 Ranch House, #557---L-Shaped Ranch House, #558---Bungalow. I am not familiar with this manufacturer and can offer no further information outside of color combos if needed. \$75.00 for all. Contact Shirley Hunter at email Yoginugen@yahoo.com. (Nov 05)

1804 Greenhouse LN Box VG, 110.00 or best offer, 1900 Turnpike LN Box VG TO EX, 120.00 or best offer, 1624 House under construction, LN Box VG 165.00 or best offer, LH-4 2 Story Colonial LN Box VG 40.00 or best offer. clfil@nycap.rr.com #04-318, Fil Fillion, 20 Westcott Rd, Troy, NY 12182-4408, (518) 235-3774

cathedral bell for town hall weathervane, split level drain pipe for light fixture. #02-154, Robert Spivey, Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 633-6777 (Feb 06)

pjb@mich.com #02-100, Paul Buczkowski, 422 N Huron, #2, Ypsilanti, MI, 734-485-0134 (Nov 05)

Your discarded, miscellaneous Plasticville walls, roofs, parts, pieces. Glued or unglued. Large or small. HO or O. For scratchbuilding an O and HO layout. #02-158, Michael Kingston, 3345 Fox Wood Ct, West Bloomfield, MI, 48324. PH.248-363-3167 (Nov 05)

Union Station roof, red rooster for 2 story, barn weathervanes, N.E. porch. 2 story porch and awning, water tower ladder, white mansion chimney, general store (Littletown) insert, white light fixtures, swing seats, water tower spout, shanty light fixture, signboards, schoolhouse weathervane, stakes, fire nozzle for truck. Will pay by

trade. #02-154, Robert Spivey, Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 633-6777 (Feb 06)

Switch Tower in Ex 1631 box and/or 1951 box. Watchman's Shanty in Ex 1633 box and/or 1816 Ex box. Ranch House in Ex 1812 box. Cape Cod in Ex 1630 box. Station Platform in Ex 1200 box. Signal Bridge in Ex 1632 box. Contact Joe Kutza at jkutza@comcast.net or 301-528-6679 (May 06)

Wanted – your unwanted or extra Plasticville Kits, complete or partials, in excellent or better condition. One kit or a truck load, doesn't matter. I will also buy nice clean boxes. glennb@tricounty.net, #03-219, Glenn Bowman, 301 Buffalo Creek Rd, Newport, PA, 17074. (Feb 06)

Wanted: Black Plasticville telephone poles. State price, condition, and number available. #02-150, James Starosta, 4957 South 81st Street, Greenfield, WI 53220-4215 or phone after 6:00 PM 1-414-282-7692. (Feb 06)

Seeking WHITE farm animals from #1617 'Farm Building and Animals' set. Interested in purchasing individual pieces or entire set. #05-349, Raymond Phillips, 40 Whispering Pine Road, Sudbury, MA 01776 Please contact Ray at rayphill@comcast.net. (May 06)

Well, I am in need of a white corn crib base for one of my sets that I bought at the TCA convention. Does any member out there have a spare? trainsfan@aol.com #00-02 Doug Gilliatt, 956 W Sherri Ct, Gilbert, AZ 85233, (480) 633-2731 (May 06)

Where is your free *For Sale, For Trade, or Wanted* classified ad?

Why not take advantage of more of your membership privileges? All members are allowed one free classified ad in each of the three classified ad categories per issue. The ad is free for up to 50 words. Your email address, membership number, name and address are not counted in the free 50 words either! Only the body of the ad is counted.

Download the ad form from the PCA website or contact the PCA Secretary for a copy if you don't have Internet access.



Become an ePCA member and a pen like the one shown will be on its way to you. The pen has the new "soft grip", comes in fine point with black ink and gold-tone accents and three lines of gold engraving. Send a note to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org indicating that you wish to get your newsletters from the PCA website instead of printed copies through the mail. She will send you the pen along with a user name and password for access to the Members Only section of the website as soon she gets your message. (Please note that the light stripe along the blue area is from camera flash. It is not on the actual pen.)

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PB-5 Footbridge \$4 each
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Misc Fire Trucks in red: \$5 each (Ladder or Pumper)
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BB-9 Billboard and Frame \$3 each; 4/\$10.

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1302 Farm Implements \$95.
1923 Roadside Stand - Sealed - \$85.
DE-7 Diner (Red or Yellow) \$30.
1800 Gas Station \$45.
FB-1 Frosty Bar \$30.
1877 Sitting People \$275. MINT
SA-9 Outhouse, Dealer Box of 12 - \$175.
ON-5 Outdoor Necessities \$250.
5002 Picket Fence, Blister Pack \$150.
HF-2 House Fence, Dealer Box of 12 Packs - \$250.

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CC-9 Church \$8.
BN-1 Barn \$10.
1620 Loading Platform \$10.
1616 Suburban Station \$12.
1303 Log Cabin \$10.
1703 Colonial Mansion (Red Roof) \$25.
0550 KING Add-A-Floor (Red) \$10. ea. or 3/\$25. MINT
0550 KING Add-A-Floor Brown \$15. ea 3/\$39. MINT
SC-4 School \$15.
DE-7 Diner \$18.

BK-1 Bank \$25.
FH-4 Fire Dept. \$15.
FB-1 Frosty Bar \$15.
SM-6 Supermarket (small) \$18.
Misc Windmill (Silver/Brown) \$15.
MOBILE HOME Assortment - No Box - \$20. ea 6/\$99.
(Cream/Teal, Cream/Pink, Cream/Blue, Teal/Cream, Pink/Cream, Pink/Blue, Blue/Cream, Blue/Pink, Blue/Silver) Make your own MOBILE HOME PARK.

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5001 Humpty Dumpty (Red, Green or Yellow) \$300.
5010 Castle (Yellow, White or Blue) \$250.

5012 Jack & Jill (Yellow or Red Well) \$250.
5013 Gingerbread House \$300.
5011 Old Lady In A Shoe (Red, Yellow or Green) \$600.

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Police Dept: Red Light \$2. ea; Chimney Cap \$3. ea; Chimney Corner \$3 ea;
Antenna Set (2 pieces) \$5.
House Under Construction: Shovel, Hoe, Bucket, Rake, Saw Horse \$3. ea.
Air Administration Building: Ladder \$15.; Canopy \$12.; Handrail Set \$12.
Jack & Jill: Pail (white) \$5. ea; Shrub (red, yellow or blue) \$5. ea; 1 of ea \$12.

School: White Light \$2. ea; Weathervane \$2. ea.
Air Hanger: Windsock \$3. ea.
Windmill: Ladder \$15; Wheel \$8.
Log Cabin: Chimney \$3. ea.
Cattle Pen: Cross Bars (2 holes or slot) \$5. ea; Set of 3 - \$12.
Gingerbread House: Brick (white, tan or chocolate) \$6. ea.
3 Men In A Tub: Oar (red or yellow) \$5. ea.
Castle: Flag or Chain (red, yellow, blue or white) \$5. ea.
Old Lady In A Shoe: Clothes line (red, yellow or green) \$15. ea.

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