

# The Villager

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 12

# **August 2013**

Number 3

# Call For 2014/2015 Officer Nominations

Nominations are now open for the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer for the year 2014/2015 term.

You may email your nomination to PCA President James Dawes at president@plasticvilleusa.org.

Mailed nominations will also be accepted. Send them to him at: PCA Officer Nominations, Attn: Jim Dawes, 426 Plymouth Drive, Syracuse, NY 13206.

It is suggested that you contact the person you wish to nominate

and inform them of your intent before placing your nomination.

Self-nomination is encouraged. Feel free to nominate yourself for any of the offices for which you feel qualified. You may contact the current officers if you would like to know more about their duties.

Nominations must be received no later than September 30, 2013. A ballot and nominee biographies will be sent with the November newsletter or as a separate mailing to ePCA members.

# **5th Anniversary House Silent Auction**

Are you a newer member of the PCA? Did you join after the 5th Anniversary house in PCA blue was offered to members?

Now is your opportunity to acquire one of only 336 pieces made available exclusively to PCA members.

The piece is complete and in the original, specially marked, box. It has been assembled and disassembled but all the pieces are included as well as the original plastic bags in which the piece was packaged.

Bids may be submitted by email to PCA@NETINS.NET. Bids may be sent via mail to the address in the box at the bottom of this page. Whether submitting an online or mailed bid, please include your name, address, and member number on your bid.

Bids must be received no later than midnight, October 31, 2013.

Proceeds from the sale will be used exclusively for upgrades to the PCA website.



# PCA Logoed Ball Caps Pre-Order

The Executive Committee is pleased to offer a Plasticville Collectors Association ball cap. The cap will be a dark blue, snap back, style. The PCA logo, minus the Founded/Incorporated line will be embroidered on the front of it in white. The cost will be \$8.50 per cap, plus postage. Please send an email to PCA@NETINS.NET if you wish to pre-order a cap. Pre-orders may also be sent via U S mail to the address in the box at the bottom of this page.

Please **do not send payment** at this time as the caps will be ordered only if there is interest sufficient enough to allow a minimum purchase amount.

Please note: The photo at right is a mockup of the logo. Although the cap shown is black the caps ordered will be dark blue.



# The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

Vice President: Doug Gilliatt

 $www.plastic ville us a. org \\ \textbf{Secretary/Treasurer:} \ John \ L \ Nie haus$ 

**President:** Jim Dawes **Webmaster:** Joe Kutza

Newsletter editor: John L Niehaus

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# **July 2013 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

The July, 2013 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00PM, Eastern time, on July 23 by President Jim Dawes. Those in attendance were; President Jim Dawes, Immediate Past President Fred Ruby, Vice-President Doug Gilliatt, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus. Absent was founder, Joe Kutza.

### **Old business:**

# PayPal dues renewal option on the website

A discussion was held regarding Secretary Niehaus' suggestion to have the words *RENEW* and *RENEWALS* display in red as he is receiving new memberships via this link. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to leave the renewal box as is due to the upcoming home page revision.

# Securing photos on the website

Tabled as webmaster Joe Kutza was unable to attend this meeting.

# Register.com banner on new plasticville.org website

In an email conversation, prior to the Executive Committee meeting between Joe Kutza and Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus, Joe confirmed that he had paid the fee to remove the banner and to consider his payment a donation to the PCA.

### **TTOS Advertising**

Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus reported that he has received no response from the TTOS contact person and has discontinued pursuing an advertising exchange.

# PCA ball cap

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to request an updated quote from the vendor. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to offer the caps on a one-time special order offer through the PCA website and in the newsletter.

### **New Business:**

### \$350 anonymous donation

Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus reported that he has received an anonymous donation of \$350 that was matched by the donor's employer. He also reported that the donor wishes that his donation and the matching donation be earmarked solely for upgrades to the PCA website.

## Adding additional photos to the PCA website

Tabled as webmaster Joe Kutza was unable to attend this meeting.

### **Donation of 5th Anniversary house to PCA**

Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus reported that he has received a PCA

5th Anniversary house as a donation. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to make the house available to all active members through a silent auction, going to the person submitting the highest bid no later than October 31, 2013 and the proceeds go towards updating the PCA website. The motion also stipulated that a notice of the auction is to be placed in the August edition of *The Villager* as well as on the home page of the PCA website.

### PayPal option on website to join the PCA

Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus reported that until such time as the home page is redesigned he has a process to accommodate individuals who wish to join the PCA online and who use the Membership Renewal option.

# Electronic membership application on the PCA website

Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus will work with the webmaster Joe Kutza and the web developer to create a membership application that can be completed online and submitted/emailed to the PCA. This will ensure a more timely processing of membership applications that currently are being submitted via the Membership Renewal option on the home page.

### Facebook moderator

Tabled. An email will be sent to the person believed to be the current moderator for their input.

### **Corner Store continuation**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he receives very few orders for merchandise offered in "The Corner Store". A discussion was held as to whether to continue "The Corner Store" merchandise offerings. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to continue "The Corner Store" merchandise offerings.

### **Website Revision**

A discussion was held regarding the pending major revision to the "look and feel" of the PCA website. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that a request for a quote be obtained from the web developer for the revision of the home page as well as entire website. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to request a mockup of what the web developer perceives as the new PCA website home page.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus

Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, July 28, 2013

NOW is the Time submit your OFFICER NOMINATIONS for 2014/2015 term Consider nominating yourself or someone you feel can take the PCA to the next level



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# From the President's Desk



Hello again from the desk of the President. I am still doing cardio rehab and doing quite well but having problems with too much weight. Still working on that.

I have been looking for more Plasticville. I have a green and white box with barn and stickers (BN-1). If anyone is interested, please get in touch with me. I picked up 15 boxes of parts and pieces and must get them

sorted before train shows start. My first show is Sept. 7 and 8 in Clayton, New York and then again in Clayton, New York on Sept. 28 and 29 then to York, PA in Oct.

Don't forget elections are coming up so get your nominations in. I have enjoyed being your president and thank all of you very much for the time I have fulfilled this position.

Enjoy your summer and good luck in looking for some good Plasticville pieces.

Jim Dawes, President

# **Vice President's Musings**



I hope that all of our members and their families are having a safe and happy summer. We are having both a happy and a HOT summer here in the Valley of the Sun. I plan on staying inside where it's cool and playing with my trains more than I have in the past as I am now retired. Of course myself and the dog (Oscar) will be hitting a few more garage sales in the early AM on Fridays to see what

we may find.

I hope that some of our members may also hit a local garage sale, flea market, or train show and come away with a prize they would like to share with the membership.

If you bought something recently or received a gift and you believe that it would be of interest please write a short article and

maybe a picture or two for publication in *The Villager*. If you do send a photo (preferably on a green background), send to villagereditor@netins.net and to webmaster@netins.net so that it can be placed on our website.

As I have said many times before and continue to say in *The Villager*, it is the hope of all of us that our organization continues to grow and attract new members which will allow us to be as vibrant and interesting as it is today into the future. While new membership is essential to the continuation and expansion of our organization we must all continue to be a source of interest/learning to our existing membership.

And as always, I want to remind everyone please remember to patronize our advertisers that support the PCA.

PCA Vice-President

Doug Gilliatt

# **Notes From the Editor**



By the time you read this I will be retired. Well, not exactly retired but sitting at home drawing salary pay while I use up all my vacation time. I will be officially retired on February 28 of next year after 34+ years working for John Deere. Before you ask, I have no concern with the possibility of wearing out a rocking chair.

In addition to being your Secretary/Treasurer and newsletter editor I am also the "librarian" of the Tool Lending Library for the Nash Car Club of America. And, yes, I do own a Nash. It's a 1951 Statesman Super, sometimes referred to as a "tub" as when they were first introduced to the public many thought the looked like an upturned claw foot bathtub.

I am most definitely looking forward to retirement and just hope that what I hear about not having any time after one retires is not true.

It's nomination time! Any organization can always use the perspectives brought to the table by new officers. The current officers have all had a long run in their respective offices. In fact, most have been in their offices since the Association's founding. Please give thoughtful consideration to running for one of the three elective offices for the 2014/2015 term. Self nomination is encouraged.

Thank you Chris Matthy. Chris has volunteered to be the Storytown resource person for the PCA. He has also promised to contribute an article on each of the six Storytown pieces. In addition to those six articles he will also pen as a history of the amusement park that may have been the inspiration for the pieces.

WOW - a resource person and a contributing editor all in one! Thank you, again, Chris. As a prelude to Chris' articles check out page 13.

I am also pleased to announce that Rich Kotowski has agreed to become our Convention and Meet reporter West of the Mississippi River. You can find his first report on page 20.

Is there someone who makes many of the conventions and meets East of the Mississippi who will be Rick's counterpart? Send me an email.

I received a check for \$350 in mid-June from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The donor specified that the funds were to be used exclusively for the addition of photos to the PCA website. The donor also informed me that the PCA should receive a matching donation from their employer. A total of \$700 should go a good distance in adding to the photo archive on the website. My most heartfelt thanks to the donor.

I am sure that most of you are aware but I will restate once again. The Plasticville Collectors Association is an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) tax exempt education organization. As such we are in the same classification as the Heart Association 8 or the National Wildlife Federation 8. Any donations, monetary or in kind, are tax deductible to the fullest extent of Federal and your State's tax laws All donations, regardless of size, are recognized by a receipt.

The only new additions this time to *The Parts Bin* are HO pieces. This is a very popular member benefit but it needs an infusion of O/S parts again. Please look in your personal parts bin and see if there is anything that you will "never, ever, ever use" and send it to me at the address on the front page of this newsletter. The parts

do not have to be perfect. They can be damaged. They can have glue residue. They can be small parts. They can be walls or parts of walls. Anything and everything will be accepted, added to *The Parts Bin*, and acknowledged with a receipt.

You may notice that the *My Other Interests* column is missing from this edition as it has from all other editions of the newsletter this year. I would like to continue that column but need your input. With over 450 members there has to be some of you who have some unique additional interests. Just a half dozen sentences and a photo is about all it takes. The previous columns were quite interesting to me. Let's see if we can bring *My Other Interests* back to life.

Now that we have a contributing editor for Storytown how about someone stepping up and contributing articles on a regular basis for O/S Plasticville and Marx? I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that we have some very knowledgeable collectors of both

O/S Plasticville and Marx.

I definitely know of one member who is probably the authority on the Master sets. Now, if only that person will share his knowledge with all of us that would make for a very interesting and informative series of articles.

Please share your knowledge of all things plastic village with the membership. You do not have to be a best-selling author. If you are hesitant and do not feeling you can get your thoughts on paper, contact me and we will work through it together. Member contributions are what keeps the newsletter interesting.

One last thing: There has been a minor change to this column. I will award a PCA pen to the first person who sends me the correct answer related to that change.

If you have suggestions, comments, or wish to become a contributing editor of *The Villager* please contact me at villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org.

# PCA - Internet and Social Media Options

By Joe Kutza

Wake up! Paper is dead and the Internet is the future! Well, not completely, and I do still subscribe to the Washington Post home delivery service... but it's not far from the truth. How do you get into the future of information? Easy.

The most significant tool you have as a PCA Member is the PCA website. It has tons of information and we continually adding more information to it.

Sure, there are plenty of holes left in the site, but we're working on it. With an all-volunteer force manning the PHOTO donations, it takes longer than one might expect, but our awesome Web Designer, Doty Shepard, is doing her best to bring the site kicking and screaming into 2013 and beyond. If you don't yet have a username and password, contact secretary@plasticville.org to get you started.

While our newsletter, *The Villager* is published quarterly; the PCA site itself is updated more frequently. Want to get notices as soon as the site is updated? Like with new pictures, opinions, or the latest version of *The Villager*? To date we have been using an RSS feed. Subscribe to the feed via the RSS app of your choice, and when updates are made, you are among the first to know.

However, RSS is now a dated form of information delivery and don't be surprised to see the PCA's RSS link, and related updates, disappearing in the near future.

But wait, what will be the replacement for RSS? How can I, as a technologically savvy, or trying to be, PCA member get immediate notifications of site updates? That's easy; they are coming to your Facebook and Twitter accounts soon.

Don't have a Facebook or Twitter account? They are free and easy to set up at www.facebook.com and www.twitter.com, respectively. You can use the Facebook link on the front page of the PCA web site and then "friend" us and "like" us to receive updates. While we currently have 88 "likes", we only have 3 "friends". The PCA Twitter account is coming soon, but you can tweet me now: @JKutza.

If you're on the Internet, you probably know about the "plastic village" and "Plasticville" groups on Yahoo. They've been around for many years and while certainly a dated and old-fashioned tool, they still serve a purpose. You can access these groups via your free Yahoo! account.

Also consider joining Pinterest; www.pinterest.com. Pinterest is a place to create bulletin board type pages where you "pin" pictures of things that you are interested in. It's a very popular form of social media at the moment, though I am still working through its features. Join and do a search for "plasticville" to get you started. Post pics to your board by either uploading them or choosing other pics on the site to pin to your board but please do not post pictures from the PCA website as the entire site is copyrighted.

Bottom line: check out all of your Internet and social media options and use the tools and resources that work best for you.



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# Facebook "Super Friend" Needed

If you "LIKE" the PCA on Facebook how about "liking" it more? The PCA is looking for a person who would be willing to assume "ownership" of the PCA Facebook page, become its Super Friend. You would be the official voice of the PCA via your responses to any postings.

We would set you up as the administrator of the page so that you will receive email notices of postings to the page as you do for your personal page. You would then reply to the postings via the PCA Facebook page as you do for your personal Facebook.

The replies may be as simple as directing them to the Bachmann

website or answering simple questions. You will have the PCA resource people to assist you if you are asked a particularly difficult question.

All persons posting questions directly related to the PCA would be directed to send their inquiry to PCA@netins.net for answering by the most appropriate officer.

And, you will be listed on the Officers and Resource Persons page as the Facebook Super Friend.

Send an email to PCA@netins.net if you would like to be our PCA Facebook Super Friend.

# Unique Davy Crockett Log Cabin By Chris Matthy



A Davy Crockett Log Cabin, mint in its header bag, recently sold on eBay for \$213.49 -- no, I couldn't afford to win this one. That's over \$60 over Bill Nole's price in his most recent guide. So far so good for the seller.

But get this -- in contacting the seller he shared that he bought 27 -- yes, 27 -- of these cabins from a drug store close out some 25 years ago. That's the kind of story we all dream of. He said this one was the last of the batch except for the one he is keeping.

Just in case you think only the seller got a good deal, take a look at the picture, which I received permission to share-- and then look again.

The Davy Crockett sticker on the front door -- inside the sealed package -- is upside down! (See inset in upper left corner)

Obviously the bidders knew what they were looking at. So congratulations all around. It was a good day in the plastic village.

# **Unique Davy Crockett Door Sticker**

By John Niehaus

In the article above we have a Davy Crockett door label applied upside down. Can you spot the differences between the label at right and the labels one generally sees on these log cabins?

The door label at right was brought to the April York Meet by Glenn Bowman. He showed it to those who attended Friday's luncheon Show N Tell.

The additional photo is the back of the label and seems to indicate that at one time or another it was glued to something with a red/brown tint.

If you have not figured out the difference yet: the corners of Glenn's label are square rather than the usual rounded corners! (Look at the label in the photo in the article above.)

If you have a Davy Crockett Log Cabin with a square corner label the PCA would like to know. Please send a photo of the front of the cabin to PCA@netins.net. As this is an uncommon label for the Davy Crockett Log Cabin we would like to include a photo of this version on our website.





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# Along the Other line - the K-Line

by Ken Honick #10-628 Buena-Vista, PA



Because of circumstances beyond my control I was unable to provide the editor with an article on another K-Line building for this issue. It is hoped that I will have an article ready for the November newsletter.

In the meantime, I think it would be great if we members in PA and maybe even the surrounding States could get together

sometime in the near future. Maybe a social gathering at a fire hall or a PCA picnic. If you may be interested in a PA PCA member get together please send me an email with your suggestions at genlee57@yahoo.com and I will try to get something organized.

Thank You, Ken Honick

The following and photo were received from Jim Steed after reading Ken's description of the K-Line Gas Station.

I really enjoyed reading Ken Honick's article in the last VILLAGER concerning the orange / white K- Line gas station. I have one on the layout and it is original from yesteryear. The point to make here is that it matches perfectly the Gulf Oil Co. colors of orange trim and a white building. I have found a GULF refrigerator magnet that fits well on the tower to show Gulf customers gas sold here. I've even trimmed the side windows and lettering in blue, just like Gulf Oil Co. did. I think it is a great station, and certainly looks good. Their motto was "Get that good Gulf feeling". They also advertised " Clean Restrooms" on a swinging sign that usually stood on the sidewalk out front. Lastly, I believe the station is "in" a scene on TM's video of the layout The Golden Age of Toy Trains. Jim Steed. Blairsville, Ga.



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# Creative Use of Damaged Parts

# Storefront//Tenement

By Edward L Johnson



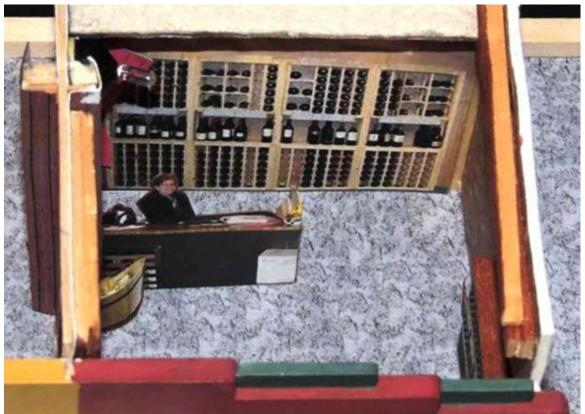
Fellow travelers may remember my previous article about exploring a corner of my storage unit. In that article I described how I found a hodgepodge of broken station platforms and built them into a station with a switch tower. Among the other parts and pieces I found a storefront. There were no markings on the plastic so I'm assuming it is either an early Plasticville or Littler Town piece.

Usually before I start a project I sketch out a diagram of what I hope to build. I didn't do that with this model so it's taking longer than I expected.

The idea for this project comes from older buildings in Brooklyn. Old timers explained that the original idea was that the store owner/operator would live above the store with his family. As time went on the store operators either prospered and moved away or their property was bought by a landlord. In this model the store operators do not own the property and the upper floors were converted to apartments.



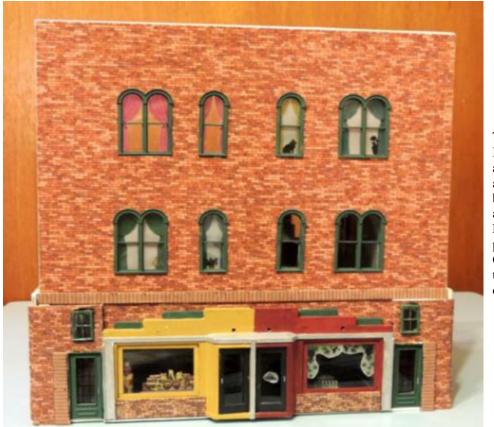
This is the store front. Originally I thought it would just be two stores. Then I changed it to a storefront with tenements. The store on the right is a wine shop. Interior is detailed with images from the Internet. The images are cut out, glued to cardstock and placed in the store.



This is a better view of the Wine Store interior. Except for the storefront, all materials are balsa wood and cardstock from my supply of materials from my daughter's architectural studies. The vacant store on the left will be a cheese shop.



After fumbling around with no plan, I laid out a plan! Two stories and four apartments. Instead of an empty shell, the apartments are partitioned. Each apartment has a kitchenette, bathroom, bedroom, and living room. One apartment I left vacant. The other three are occupied but only one will have a detailed interior.



That's all folks!!!!!!
Eddie J.....

The building is not yet completed. In case I eventually decide to detail the apartments, all of them are partitioned. The lower right apartment is vacant and the upper left is being detailed. Except for the vacant apartment, all apartments are lighted with LEDs. The brick facade is made with printed paper. The window frames are from Grandt Line This project has taken longer than I expected mainly because I didn't lay out a plan for it.

# A Visit With Lee Riley (part 4)



The names in bold below relate to the following participants in the visit with Mr. Riley:

**Lee** Riley, Vice President of Product Development, Bachmann Industries

**Doug** Blaine, Vice President, Marketing, Bachmann Industries

Joe Kutza, PCA founder

**John** Niehaus, PCA Secretary/Treasurer *Please note that text in italics have been added* 

by the transcriber for clarification.

**DOUG**: You mean they still had to be painted, though, right? **JOE**: Injection molded, red, yellow, til up, tail down. I have never seen the flesh ones.

Yeah but that was the ones later. .... You know the boxes that were the cardstock boxes? The heavy duty ones with the artwork on it? With the paintings on the front? OK, well that was in the 60's. That was in the late 50's, early 60's. Well that was the kind of boxes.

**JOE**: Not the Birds of the World kits? Is that what you are talking about?

Yeah, Birds of the World.

**JOE**: Birds of the World all came flesh. We're talking about the Plasticville birds. I was talking about the Flock of Birds.

That was the bird in the mold that was made originally in the 40's. When I grew up; Doug and I were talking about it this morning. I remember my fifth birthday. There's pictures somewhere. The cake has plastic "Happy Birthday" and it was in blue and it was in pink. There were little plastic dishes in pink and blue.

Jack Langhauser said that they had more pink and blue styrene they had mixed around here. They had it outside, under the sheds. There were sheds around the back where we park now. Metal, tin, sheds to keep the rain off. They'd mix it up then grab a pallet jack or hand truck and wheel it into the molding department to mold it up. They would be doing like at Easter time and everything. Whatta ya call it "the mints". The little plastic mints. They had a little twirled handle of plastic over the top. It was all "open and shut" molds.

The birds were used for lots of things.

**DOUG**: As long as we are talking baking I thought I would show you this. No one had seen that here until I brought it in today. (Doug is displaying a cookie cutter)

**JOE**: I've got one of those but it's not blue, though.

**DOUG**: What color do you have? **JOE**: It's either red or brown

JOHN: I'd say, "Probably red".

**DOUG** I have a red star and a white apple.

unintelligible

**LEE**: It's interesting. It's got a sharp edge on it. With every mold you gotta have what is known as a draft angle. To get it out. Right away I went like this and I felt the draft angle. Look at this. You can see what they did.

**DOUG**: It's also a cookie "cutter". Its gotta have a sharp edge. *unintelligible* 

**LEE**: Yes, I know, but that's the draft angle to pull it out of the mold. That's pretty cool. They just accentuated the draft angle.

**JOE**: Have you seen the salt and pepper shakers?

**DOUG**: I've not seen salt and pepper shakers. *unintelligible* 

**JOHN**: As far as early advertising. The advertising I have been able to find is usually in the Boy's Life magazine.

LEE: The also did ...

**JOHN**: Was it Billy & Ruth? The little Billy and Ruth Woolworths catalogs, I think it was?

**LEE**: Yea well they did that in particular. They also did, remember, they did trade.. At that time, if you go back, we had publications in the trade. OK?

JOHN: Playthings magazine, for one.

**LEE**: Well Playthings goes way back but that was because that was a monthly magazine that was out - that was Lou Gehrmann (sp)

**DOUG**: What are you asking about advertising? I can do advertising.

**LEE**: No, no, we are talking about the old days. You weren't born yet. (laughter) What they did is... He didn't grow up around trains as much as I did. Except the real ones he did. With his family.

**JOHN**: I was asking about the advertising because what I find for Plasticville is in Boy's Life magazine in the 50's

**LEE**: Well I was a Boy Scout. Cub Scout and Boy Scout. And my brother...

DOUG: ...

**LEE**: What I am trying to say is, yea, it was there because there were projects. They were building a layout and all that.

JOE: Woolworth's ads?

JOHN: Woolworth's ads, yes.

**JOE**: They were very popular ... Pull them out of a magazine. *indistinguishable*... Here's a Plasticville USA *indistinguishable*.

**LEE**: I was in Baltimore where Montgomery Ward was based. *indistinguishable* They had a big East Coast warehouse on Washington Blvd. There was another regional one called Tudman's. (sp) Tudman's in Baltimore was big and the biggest store they had was York Road and Woodburn Ave. They would publish advertising in the Baltimore Sun. They would do(this) like around Thanksgiving as people would start to build their Christmas layouts.

**DOUG**: Let's jump ahead. Lee, you got some stuff you want to show too. I know you brought stuff.

**JOHN**: What obstacles have you faced while producing the product? Are there many?

LEE: You talking about Plasticville?

JOHN: Yes

**LEE**: The thing is; it's changed. When I first came here, I have been here 26 years, there were only six people here, twenty six years ago when the company was ready to "go under". The interesting thing about Plasticville is that every year that the product has been available, there has never been a year that the product was not produced. The molds have been run, no matter where they are. All the molds are the original molds. The stuff you see today is the stuff that ... Two of the guys came out of retirement. We packed it up. Put it in trailers and sent it to our corporate headquarters in China because our molding machines wore out. People retired.

**JOE**: I have two questions. *unintelligible* Percentage of sales - Plasticville?

LEE: Oh, it's small. It used to be huge.

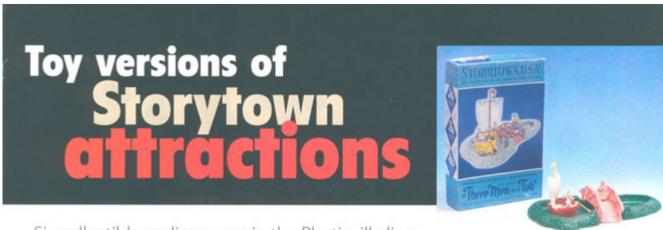
**JOE**: Use to be what? 40%?

**LEE**: unintelligible

To be continued

# STORYTOWN, a Prelude

The illustration below is a prelude to what will be some very interesting articles by Chris Matthy (# 01-73). Chris has offered to contribute articles on each of the six Storytown pieces as well as an initial article on the amusement park after which the pieces may have had their inspiration. He has also volunteered to be our Storytown resource person.



Six collectible replicas were in the Plasticville line

by Roger Carp | photos by William Zuback

he popularity of Storytown, U.S.A. reached far beyond Lake George, N.Y. Families from the fast-growing suburbs of Buffalo, Long Island, and Newark made the hours-long drive, thoughts of Mother Goose characters filling their minds.

Folks around Philadelphia heard of the theme park, too, including executives at Bachmann Bros. Looking for ways to expand the firm's hot-selling Plasticville line of railroad, commercial, and residential structures, they saw the advantages of creating kits modeling attractions at Storytown. Six of them debuted in 1957.

For the next two years, Bachmann manufactured and marketed variations of these half-dozen models. The replicas of Goosey Gander's Castle, Humpty Dumpty, Jack and Jill, and three other attractions were aimed at a younger audience than was spending money earned delivering newspapers on Plasticville houses, fencing, and railroad depots.

Each kit came in a neat two-piece box. Packed inside were unpainted parts and a sheet on which was printed the nursery rhyme pertaining to the attraction. In addition, Bachmann offered the no. 5050 Storytown Assortment, a rare item that contained four of the kits as well as a sheet with their Mother Goose rhymes.

The components of the individual kits were molded in different colors of plastic, and enthusiasts have identified variations of most of these parts. Dedicated collectors therefore search for different versions of the kits, which can be worth as much as \$1,000 in pristine condition.

Ironically, neither the boxes nor the sheets put inside them mentioned Storytown, U.S.A. Consequently, many hobbyists do not realize that Charley Wood's amusement park inspired this Plasticille offshoot. Considering that sales of the Storytown line were probably weak, Bachmann might have been wise to have spelled out the connection. \*



▲ Three Men In a Tub and Jack and Jill are two of the six kits that Bachmann Bros., well known as the maker of Plasticville, put in its Storytown, U.S.A. line. Based on attractions at Charley Wood's theme park, they were cataloged from 1957 through 1959.



▲ Each of Bachmann's easy-to-assemble Storytown kits came in an attractive box that had its relevant nursery rhyme illustrated on the lid. The color of the unpainted plastic parts could differ, thereby creating some collectible variations. All models courtesy of William Nole

# STORYTOWN, U.S.A. KITS AND THEIR VALUES\*

Mint Number	Like new Name	boxed	boxed	No box
5000	Three Men In a Tub	\$350	\$250	\$100
5001	Humpty Dumpty	\$425	\$375	\$150
5010	Goosey Gander's Castle	\$400	\$350	\$100
5011	Old Woman In a Shoe	\$1,000	\$800	\$250
5012	Jack and Jill	\$350	\$275	\$100
5013	Gingerbread House	\$400	\$350	\$100

\*Values taken from Bill Nole's Classic Guide to Vintage "O" Plasticville (2002).

Illustration from 2006 Classic Toy Trains special edition © Kalmbach Publishing - used with permission

# **Unique Color Telephone Booth Identified**

By John Niehaus w/information from Charlotte Rench

Louis Leppert (#02-113) posed the question below in the August 2010 edition of The Villager;

"I have this telephone booth in my Plasticville collection. It is yellow with a gray base and roof. The telephone in the interior is

gray as well. The word "telephone" is painted gray on raised letters above the door. Can anyone give ne a positive identification as to who may have been the manufacturer? Please send an email me at leppfam@insightbb.com."

I received an email from Charlotte Rench (#09-606) in December of 2012; She stated that, "It's Model Power 6061 Set of 5 Figures Park Benches Access... It's 12.89. Think it can be ordered from Trainz.com. (The TRAINZ.com website has the set available on their site for \$12.89. editor)

I received a second email from Charlotte in April of this year. She reported that she was reorganizing her magazines and, "guess what Mike Cedro's I found. magazine, the **Plastic** Village Gazette. Issue #9, dated December, 2002, page 5, the P.V. Phone Home (Phone Booth) mentions the Model Power Yellow phone booth!!!"

Charlotte is correct that the phone booth is one of

the pieces in the Model Power #6061 PARK SCENES assortment. It is one of 20 pieces in the set.

The phone booth is molded in bright yellow. The floor, roof and phone inside seem to be painted in metallic silver. Molded into a sign over the door and with the letters painted black is the word TELEPHONE.



There are four unpainted simulated cast iron and wood park benches. All other items in the set show some painting. The three included fire hydrants, molded in red, have silver painted bases and a ring just below the valve head. Three blue molded mailboxes are painted red in the area where one would drop their letters. A nice detail is the word LETTER molded into the door the postman would open to remove the deposited items. There are three green trash cans. They are molded in what seems to be the same yellow as the phone booth. Nicely molded into these are the words PUSH on the door through which trash would be deposited as well as LITTER on the front of the container.

There are six fully painted figures; three standing and three sitting. Even the eyes are painted on these figures although not the lips. It seems that it is possible that some of the figures in various sets may vary. The figures in the accompanying

photo and the illustration on the TRAINZ website seem to have some, but not all of the same figures.



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# Along the "HO" Line

# Freight Yard, Part One: Suburban Station & Freight Station

By Todd Hendrickson





Welcome back to Along the "HO" line. I hope everyone had a great Summer. I have had a crazy summer. I'm having my back porch rebuilt and had to move 40+ potted plants.

This is the first of three articles about six freight yard kits. I am

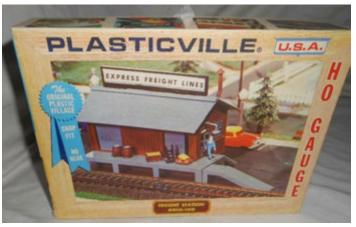
going to cover two kits that complement each other during each of these articles.

The Suburban Station (top left photo) is a great kit with a ticket office and loading platform most came with citizens, crates, hand truck, and benches. What I also like about these kits is that it does not take up much space on a lay out.

Notice how I didn't give a kit number and in the picture the kit is in a plastic bag not a box. This is because this kit came from a large box set or train set. Most of us buy kits because of the box they come in, like me. I collect the "wooden frame" and scenic classics kits. Most of the time these kits that come in a plastic bag are sold for cheap

and are good deals. They are a good place to get extra parts or replace lost or broken parts. Do not pay full price for these kits.

The Freight Station kit # 2610-100 (top right photo) has been around a long time. I have seen it in some of the earliest catalogs



and it fits well near the Suburban Station. I think most people wouldn't want to wait for a train around a bunch of industrial creates and sacks. Most of these kits also came with small detail parts like crates, a citizen, a hand truck, barrels, sacks, and a large sticker for the sign. The freight doors open if you want to detail the inside with crates, sacks, and barrels.

In closing; I was hunting through eBay when I saw a picture of the bottom of an old log cabin kit (photo at left). I had never seen this before so though some of you might not have seen it either.

I never knew Bachmann sold plastic table ware, sunglasses, and plastic birthday candle holders. It is fun to learn the other things Bachmann made back in the old days.

Hope all of you enjoy the rest of your summer and see you next time. Any comments or questions contact me at Mortemobire @ yahoo.com please put PCA in the subject as I get lots of E-mail.



Suburban station photo courtesy of eBay seller VIHLEN-CO 2610 Freight Station photo courtesy of eBay seller 973lisam

# Are You a Boxed or Master Set Collector?

We are looking for a member who has a knowledge of the larger Plasticville boxed and master sets.

We need an associate editor for both the O/S and HO sets. If either of these sets are your area of expertise, please consider sharing your knowledge of the sets with fellow members through articles in *The Villager*.

Contact villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org for more information on how you can become a contributing editor for these sets in *The Villager*.

# Plasticville on the Boards

# **Cleaning Track**

By John Gottcent



Most plastic village layouts incorporate model trains in one way or another. Trains inevitably require track, whether that be as part of a main line (Photo One) or a siding (Photo Two). And track can sometimes be in a pretty rusty state.





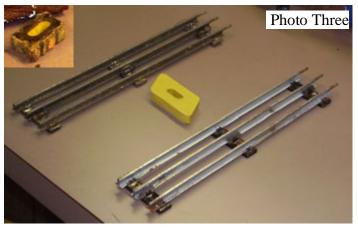
I discovered this last year when I found a box of Plasticville and mixed railroad supplies at a local flea market. After negotiating what I thought was a fair price, I brought the box home and was pleased to find seven or eight complete Plasticville buildings in it.

Beneath the buildings was a collection of fifty or so pieces of Lionel tubular track.

The buildings were in very good condition. The track, however, was another matter. Most pieces had obviously been exposed to moisture and were covered with rust.

My first attempt at cleaning the track involved an abrasive track cleaner and lots of elbow grease. I took a section of track that looked like that on the left in Photo Three, and after a good while had it looking like the section on the right.

A brand new track cleaner separates the sections in that picture, but if you look at the insert in the upper left of Photo Three, you'll



see the actual cleaner I used. It started out in pretty new condition. As you can see, I used up almost a whole cleaner on one track section. I won't show you before and after photos of my elbow which supplied the grease, but you can imagine how I felt after that job and how quickly I started looking for another, easier way to clean the remaining 40 plus track sections.

I went on line and discovered a product called Evapo-Rust (Photo Four). I purchased a quart at Lowe's for under nine dollars, though you can get larger sizes at a number of other stores, including AutoZone. The instructions seemed too simple to be true, but I decided to give it a try.

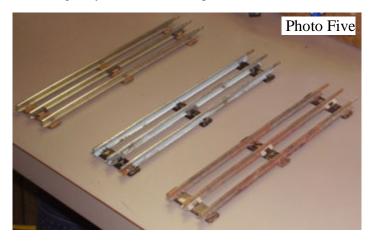
As instructed, I placed several sections of badly rusted track into a shallow glass baking dish and covered the track with an undiluted amount of the product. This consumed about half of the quart bottle. The back of the bottle said to "completely



immerse item(s) to be de-rusted for 1 to 12 hours, depending on the depth and age of rust."

Since my track was mostly in pretty bad shape, I decided to leave it soaking overnight. In the morning, I was amazed at the result. Photo Five shows a typical piece of rusted track on the right. To the left are two sections after an overnight soaking in Evapo-Rust. The picture has not been doctored or "Photoshopped".

The originally clear color of the product did darken a bit after



the soaking, but I decided to go ahead and use the same liquid for another batch of track the next evening. It worked just as well.

After cleaning about half my track sections, I found the liquid to be almost opaque, and decided to ditch it (it's non-toxic and biodegradable) and replace it with the remaining half of the quart. This second batch of fluid successfully cleaned my remaining sections of track. In other words, the quart bottle handled about



fifty track sections, most of them in shape as bad as that you see in the photos.

It's true that later in the process, when the Evapo-Rust had become quite dark itself, it took longer to clean some pieces. Also, in a number of cases, small bits of rust remained, but these I was able to eliminate with my abrasive cleaner without totally ruining it or my aching arm.

On the whole, I was very pleased with this product, and I recommend it for any small metal items in your collection which have been damaged by rust. (I say small, for Evapo-Rust will only work via soaking. Trying to apply dabs of it to larger items will not work.)

If you try it on some track, it should end up looking like the siding in Photo Six.

I'd love to hear from anyone out there who tries this product, or from anyone with other ideas about eliminating rust from our layouts. Contact me at jandjgott@gmail.com. Meanwhile, happy villaging!

# Free "Welcome to Plasticville" Billboard

# Courtesy of Jason Rackawack, #12-787

By John Niehaus

I have received two sets of billboards (PDF files) that are sized for the Plasticville billboard frames from PCA member Jason Rackawak, #12-787. His message accompanying the files reads, "I am providing 2 different pages for consideration, The Misc Billboard sheet has several vintage billboards that will fit the Plasticville billboard frames and work well when printed on card stock. I do not know if publishing these logos will cause legal issues for the PCA. The business logos and designs may still be copyrighted by their original owners. (*This "sheet" will be made available to members after the PCA has permission from the trade name holders to publish them. editor*)

The 2nd contains eight of the "Welcome to Plasticville" billboards only. The PCA's licensing agreement with Bachmann

may allow these to be published. These are not to be used for resale or for profit."

I have received permission from Bachmann to make "Welcome to the Plasticville" billboard available to the membership at no cost if the PDF file is requested. The file contains a total of eight identical images. Please send an email to PCA@netins.net with BILLBOARDS in the message title. I will reply to you and attach the file to the reply.

You can then save the file to your computer and either print the billboards or take the file to a local print/copy shop to have them printed.

For those of you who do not have email access; a sheet of the billboards can be ordered from the PCA for \$2.25, postpaid. The billboards will be printed on white faced card stock and shipped as a single uncut sheet. To place an order by mail, payment in the form of a check or money order payable to Plasticville Collectors Association, can be sent to the address on the front page of the newsletter.

Please include your member number with your remittance and note that you are ordering billboards.



# Are You A Collector of Marx Buildings?

If you are collector of Marx plastic buildings why not consider sharing your collecting experiences with your fellow PCA members. Contact villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org for more information on how you can become a contributing editor of *The Villager*.

# TCA 2013, St Louis Convention Report

By Doug Gilliatt w/photos by John Niehaus



Those attending the informal dinner at the TCA convention in St Louis this past June are, from left to right: Mrs Rich (Lisa) Kotowski; Rich's sister, Marie Kotowski; PCA member Rich Kotowski; Mrs Doug (Becky) Gilliatt, PCA Vice President Doug Gilliatt; and PCA member Jason White. (Not pictured, John Niehaus).

My wife and I attended the TCA convention in St. Louis this year and enjoyed meeting some of our PCA members for an informal dinner.

Members beside me and my wife were John Niehaus, Jason White and Rich Kotowski along with his wife, Lisa and his sister, Marie.

Dinner was a very enjoyable and there was much discussion and sharing of knowledge on various manufacturers of plastic buildings, an occasional discussion on model trains as well as swapping stories. Hopefully next year the informal dinner will grow even larger and hopefully I will be able to attend.

As for reporting on the sights and sounds of the convention (At least for plastic buildings of any type) there were almost nothing to report on. All that I found were a few HO Plasticville buildings, which was a big letdown. As a whole, the convention was smaller than I had hoped for but there is always next year. It is my hope that next year's convention in Philadelphia will be bigger and better.

I did however find two boxed Littletown ranch houses in KY at a small antique store which made my day. One was the version with red roof/trim and white walls that I did not have.



Is Becky wondering if she should have ordered something a bit more than a fruit plate or is she just admiring the presentation of Doug's steak?

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1921 Fire House (Grey Siren, sealed) \$75

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AD-4 Air Admin Bldg, Mint \$90

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1611 Hardware & Pharmacy, Hard Box #\$95.00

1630 Telephone Poles, Mint \$15

45934 Ranch House, Grey/Bright Blue Roof \$25

1900 Tumpike, Mint \$70

1807 Two Story House, Mint \$45

0600 Windmill KING MT \$30

# No Box Kits, Complete

Railroad Work Car \$10, SUB Station \$8, Barn \$8, Motel \$8, HOBO SHACKS \$15, School \$12, Fire Department \$15, Diner (red or yellow roof) \$12, Supermarket (small) \$10, Col Mansion (red roof) \$25, Bank \$25, NE Ranch (white/tan window/black roof) \$20, Add-A-Floor (red or brown) \$8 ea or 3/\$19, Mobile Homes (8 different colors) \$15 ea or 8/\$95

1090 Telephone Booth, (blue or white) 4/\$20 1050 Outhouse (brown) \$4 ea
Fire Trucks (red, 1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$10 set - New: (yellow, 1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$15 set
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# LITTLETOWN, BOXED, COMPLETE #303 ST lights, \$25; #304 fence \$15

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Shipping: \$5 for books, \$6 for kits and ERTL truck, \$3.50 for parts, \$8 for LCCA Set

# The Roving Convention and Meet Reporter / West of the Mississippi LOTS & TTOS Joint Convention in Reno NV, July 2013

By Rich Kotowski

### **Summer WOW!**

Some go to the National conventions of clubs for the tours. Some go for the adventure. And some go for the hunt! At the TCA in St. Louis the tours were Great. (*The hunt was a total bust. A total of 6 pieces of HO and nothing more. editor*)

Then in Reno at the joint convention of the LOTS and TTOS many of the attendees loved the train ride of the Virginia & Truckee <u>but</u> the trading hall was the **best**!

My pick in the hall was a mint. in the box, in the plastic bag, Bungalow with the lamps still attached to the sprues. Never opened. Never used! This from a vendor with around 100 boxed Plasticville. There were several others with Plasticville for your O or S layout or collection. (See photo at right)

Also, in Reno, my Plasticville display table was a hit, informing paid convention attendees the first day and then the public the second





day about Plasticville. The second day was open to the public. (See photo ate left)

My display table showed the varieties of churches, Construct a House kits/boxes, bungalows, several Cape Cod houses, along with Plasticville billboards and the 1956 billboards that were breakfast cereal premiums.

The second day, Boy Scouts got to come in for free to work on their railroad & collecting merit badges. Some of our Toy Train Heritage people assisted with that. (TTH does not have a website but can be found on Facebook. editor)

Next stop on the line - Southern California in November for the Cal-Stewart meet! If you are planning on attending, give me an email shout at rnlkotowski@yahoo.com. Maybe we can get together for dinner the evening of the 22nd or 23rd.

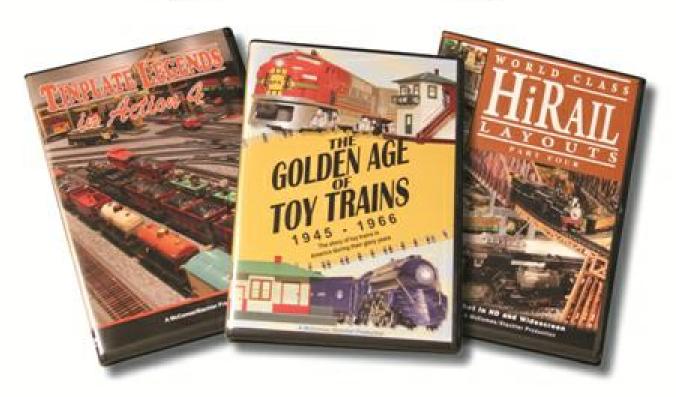
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# **Resource People Needed**

We are in need of resource people for the following manufacturers. This is an easy position to fill as you will only be called upon when we need your expertise to verify a piece or offer historical information as the need arises. Please consider volunteering. Your name will be listed on the 2012/2013 Officers information page of the roster.

Plasticville N Kleeware
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# LITTLETOWN Word Search

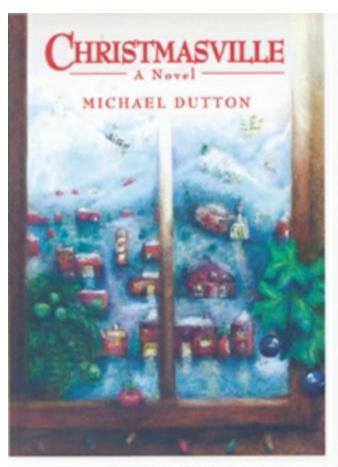
By Joe Kutza

M	N	O	I	T	A	N	I	В	M	O	C	P	C	A
P	A	T	E	R	S	O	N	E	C	N	E	F	E	T
A	N	E	W	Y	О	R	K	Н	C	N	A	R	T	P
R	C	A	В	Е	U	N	Е	V	A	Н	T	F	I	F
K	O	Q	U	L	N	G	N	O	I	T	A	T	S	R
S	R	Y	S	D	L	Н	Е	V	N	N	C	E	В	Е
E	N	R	I	F	I	G	U	R	E	S	A	D	E	I
T	Е	O	N	A	M	В	A	O	K	P	P	I	W	G
Y	R	S	E	R	I	В	Y	T	E	R	E	S	Н	Н
R	S	S	S	M	T	R	F	C	I	U	C	E	C	T
E	T	E	S	K	E	S	W	E	Y	C	O	D	R	O
K	O	C	U	N	D	L	I	L	O	E	D	I	U	F
A	R	C	N	W	O	T	E	L	T	T	I	L	Н	Z
В	Е	A	I	A	C	J	I	O	U	C	G	S	C	R
O	В	Y	T	X	R	S	L	C	A	T	A	L	O	G

accessory	combination	park set	bakery
corner store	paterson	banner	farm
pca	barn	fence	ranch
business unit	fifth avenue	silo	cape cod
figures	slide side	catalog	freight
spruce	church	littletown	station
collector	new york	unlimited	web site

Your editor thought it would be a fun diversion to include one of the word searches our founder, Joe Kutza, created some time ago. Joe and I hope you enjoy this diversion and mental challenge.

If you happen to be a "Word Searcher" and would like to try your hand at creating additional plastic village related word searches for publication in future editions of *The Villager* please contact me at villagereditor@netins.net. I will provide you with a word search creation website.



Mr. Lionel knows.
Mr. Bachmann knows.
Mary Jane is about to find out.
And now ...

in Book II ...
The magic continues -Life as we might imagine it ...
as we might dream about ...
as we once remembered it ...
Life in a Christmas village on
a 4 x 8 model train platform!

Christmasville: ISBN 978-0-9786655-9-3 trade paper, 2nd edition, copyright 2012, 348 pp. Finalist in the Mom's Choice, Indy Book and Eric Hoffer Awards. Nominated for ForeWord Reviews 2012 "Book of the Year Award." Finding Christmasville: ISBN 978-0-9786655-2-4, trade paper, 1st edition, copyright 2012, 420 pp. Nominated for both ForeWord Reviews 2012 "Book of the Year Award" and IBPA's "Ben Franklin Award."

# Book I and Book II of The Christmasville Trilogy by Michael Dutton

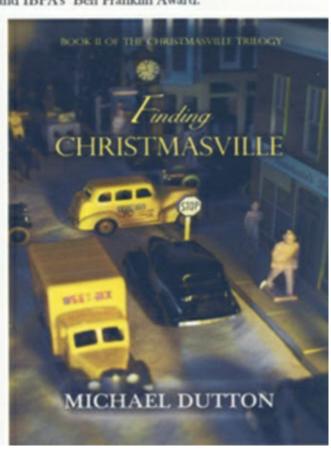
PCA MEMBER #03-236 TCA MEMBER #08-62832



TO ORDER your autographed, personalized editions of "Christmasville" and "Finding Christmasville," please send check or money order for \$15.00 each (tax and shipping are free) to:

Linden Park Publishers, Ltd 51 Bateman Avenue Newport, RI 02840.

Both novels are available on amazon.com. E-book editions are available for both the Kindle and BookNook devices.



# What Members Are Saying

I wish to comment on John Gottcent's "Learning From Ads" article in the May *Villager* where he refers to the Plasticville advertisements illustrated in the November issue (and repeated in May). The ads were from the December 1962 and 1964 issues of *Boys' Life* magazine. He contends that a "more obvious difference [in the two ads] is the presence of a young lady in the '62 ad and her absence two years later. This may be a simple case of airbrushing."

I do not think that the second was an airbrush of the first. The 1962 ad shows more of the right side of the boy's face (you can barely see his left eye), while the 1964 ad shows most of his entire face. Also, in the 1962 ad you can only see the front of the bungalow that the boy is holding while in the 1964 ad you can see the front and one side. I suspect that these were from one photo shoot, but they're not from the same photo. Tom Fritsch (#01-04)

Surprise! Today I got my winnings from eBay. The box came in the mail. I had won a Cape Cod house with the correct chimney & box! But wait! A surprise came in the box. Very small, a lamp, for the front door of a Bungalow! Rich Kotowski

Thank you for all you do for PCA and its members! Mark Lembersky

I have tried several days now to download the news letter? I get a message that the file is damaged and cannot be downloaded?? All other files such as the Index to articles, the Membership list etc. download fine. I use Adobe 9 on a Windows 2003 XP sp3 computer using AOL as my browser. HELP?? Paul Lansing

... It worked, I was able to download the" Villager" as an attachment from your e-mail! When I tried to download it, I got a message that I needed "Adobe Reader". I have had the reader for years, and have updated it. This time it wouldn't download until I said yes to the message and it proceeded to download Adobe XI. I previously had Adobe 9.5. It did remove that old version when installing the new. Well anyway I finally got it downloaded and printed it out. Thank you Thank You. Now I will go to coffee, my regular habit late in the morning with my freshly printed villager, and read it. ... Again Thanks for the aid. Paul Lansing (I sent the actual newsletter PFD file to Paul as an attachment in my reply to his first email. I wanted to be certain

it was not an issue with his Internet Service Provider, AOL. If any member has issues with accessing the newsletter on line they need to contact villagereditor@netins.net and request assistance. Editor)

NEED BOXES: Thought there would be a listing on these BUT not this time around, a box can be made on a copier if you have a good "sample" of it, I know about this .."copyrights". Chris Rossbach (The above was from a note added to a request for parts from The Parts Bin - Only the items listed in The Parts Bin are available. I have yet to receive any empty boxes to list. I would suggest that if a person needs specific boxes that they use the Wanted section of The Villager classified ads section. It's a free benefit of being a member.

Mr Rossbach also mailed me a very detailed process for creating boxes. I have added the creation of boxes to the agenda for discussion by the Executive Committee during their October meeting. Editor)

A poem by eBayer named Lodical;

You see it.

You want it

You place your bid/value on it

Sometimes if others are sleeping or your bid is extremely high You win.

OR

You see it

You want it

You place your snipe program to bid at the last seconds of the auction

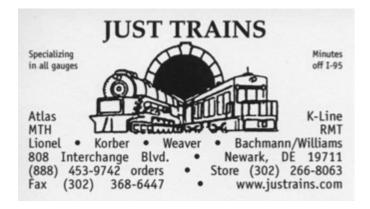
You win more than the first method

I've done it both ways!

Rich Kotowski

Hope you continue as the editor of the PCA. You do such a great job! Enjoy your articles. I read the whole magazine while on the airplane for the second time. David Starre (*Credit for the articles must be shared with my contributing editors. The Villager would not be what it is without them. David's comment was in response to my Facebook post that I was retiring, not as your newsletter editor but from John Deere after 34+ years. editor)* 

# Don't Forget Officer Nominations!





# For Sale

# American Flyer Trains and Paper

# Send for FREE Massive A/FList - Updated Daily

The list is free but please include \$2.32 to cover actual First Class mail postage.

# GILBERT

# All Original

LIONEL

PRICES HAVE BEEN REDUCED ON MANY ITEMS ON THE LISTINGS

# **NEW LIST!**

Lionel Trains and Paper List Now Available – Postwar to Modern Includes over 120 Plasticville reproduction parts The list is free but please include \$1.52 to cover actual First Class mail postage.

# Gilbert American Flyer O Gauge Trains

Gilbert Boxed Sets - Catalogued and Uncatalogued

Diesel Engines Steam Engines Freight Cars Passenger Cars

Operating and Non-Operating Accessories

Gilbert "All Aboard" items Gilbert Auto-Rama items Gilbert Toys
Gilbert/AF HO Erector Items Gilbert Watches

Track and more

Rare Original Gilbert Paper

Annual Reports Stock Certificates Instruction Sheets

Gilbert Consumer & Dealer Catalogs

95% of all items are grade Excellent, Excellent Plus, or better

AFBy Lionel

Boxed Sets Engines Freight Cars Passenger Cars Operating Accessories

All in factory new original boxes

S Gaugian, Classic Toy Trains, and O Gauge Rail-Roading Magazines

Contact:

Steve (PCA #02-175) or Judy Hajash

P.O. Box 5

Augusta, West Virginia 26704-0005

Phone 304 359-2194 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM Eastern time, 7 days

Leave a message on the answering machine if we do not pick up.

We will return your call.

Questions – call or email judyp@atlanticbb.net

# **Welcome New Members**

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of July 1, 2012. Their names are now permanently listed in the on line roster.

Sandra Buch, Florence, OR Eugene M Caffey III, Port Deposit, MD Robert A McKanna, Inverness, IL Alan W Halvorsen, Chicago, IL Anthony LaFace, Parlin, NJ Leon Viands, Herndon, VA John C Alleger, Bartonville, PA Fred G Kantrowitz, Dover, MA Vincent M Quinn, Quakertown, PA Norman G Bott, Pittsburgh, PA Joseph A Wesoloski, Scranton, PA Kenneth G Puller, New Cumberland, PA James C Crowther, Cincinnati, OH Harold B Simms, Hampton, GA Marianne T Nagrant, Farmington Hills, MI John Smith, Jr., Bemus Point, NY

Rich J Kotowski, Angels Camp, CA

# **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 members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be permanently added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls if no objection to such action is received prior to October 1, 2013.

Joseph D Canestro, Holtsville, NY Richard L Cram II, Austin, TX Avril P Nasadowski, Watsonville, CA Thomas R Webb, Linden, NY Scott A Davis, Youngstown, OH Tom Riddle, Henrico, VA

# **The PCA Corner Store**

# Items for sale by the PCA

Send payment and the description of item desired to Plasticville Collectors Association, John L 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. The price is \$1.00 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. 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.

### PCA ballpoint pen

PCA dark blue barrel with black soft grip, black ink ballpoint pen with gold accents. The pen is imprinted in gold tone with three lines:

PLASTICVILLE COLLECTORS ASSN HTTP://WWW.PLASTICVILLEUSA.ORG FOUNDED 1999 - \$4.00, postpaid.

# Coffee Mug with PCA logo

White ceramic 11 oz. ceramic mug. PCA blue or black logo. \$9.95 or two for \$13.95, postpaid. Please specify your color choice when ordering. Only 24 pieces of black logo mugs were produced.

PCA ball caps coming soon!

### Additional items with the PCA logo

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.

# **Future Train Meet Dates**

# York Meets

2013: October 17, 18, 19

2014: April 24, 25, 26 - October 16, 17, 18

# **Cal-Stewart Meets**

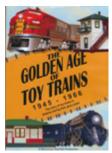
2013: November 22, 23, 24

Send your information of future non-commercial meets to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

for free publication here

TCA, LCCA, LOTS, and other non-commercial meet dates accepted.

# **Product Reviews**



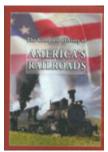
The Golden Age of Toy Trains, The story of toy trains in America during their glory years 1945-1966, DVD, 65 minutes, TM Books & Video, \$14.99. I believe this to be a onetime video and not the beginning of a series based upon the title. Absent from this video are the musical interludes by James Coffey. In their stead is background music of a very relaxing nature. The narrator also seems to be a different person than on the

majority of the previous TM videos. The background music and the perceived new narrator are a great fit for this video. In addition to the narrator there at least a dozen well know train collectors and dealers who add their sentiments to the various chapters including such well know names as Clark Dunham and Ed Boyle.

There are ten chapters on this video. Their titles include; Lionel, American Flyer, American Flyer Accessories, Lionel Accessories, Lionel/American Flyer Rivalry, Marx, AMT/Kusan, Lionel 1955-166, Christmas Memories and the only layout actually featured on the video, that of PCA member James Steed. All chapters feature operating trains and what seem like from more than one layout in most instances.

I am very pleased to see a chapter on AMT/Kusan. Although a small and short-lived company it brought a few innovations to the toy train market before the major players. That chapter notes that AMT was the first toy train manufacturer to produce and market extruded metal passenger cars. It also notes that the introduction of these cars to the toy train market most likely pressed Lionel to do likewise.

The American Flyer chapter is quite enlightening, especially for a non-Flyer person. A good portion of this chapter discusses how various accessories received their name such as Gabe the lamplighter. It is a very interesting and informative chapter.



The Complete History of America's Railroads. Four Part DVD program, Approximately 80 minutes. A Kaw Valley Films Production available from Marshall Publishing Inc.

As noted above the DVD contains four chapters. They are: 1800-1845 - A Wild and Impractical Scheme, 1845-1865 - One Nation... Indivisible, 1865-1880 - Transcontinental Expansion, 1880-1916 - The

Golden Age. All four chapters are narrated by the same person whose voice I cannot quite place but seem to have heard in the past.

The 1800-1845 begins with a about a four minute pre-railroad introduction. It notes that prior to the railroads canals were one of the "latest and greatest" in transportation technology, especially for the transport of goods. It also touches on the very early history of stream engines in England as well as the early railroads in this country. The principle players of both the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads are also given their due.

It is noted in the 1845-1865 segment that at one time the railroads owned over 20 million acres. As can be expected this segment devotes a significant amount of its time to the Civil War. It notes that the combined mileage of the Pennsylvania and the Erie railroads at that time had more aggregate miles than all of the

As with the American Flyer chapter, the Marx chapter has quite a bit of trivia included in it also. One tidbit of information is how the Oak Park tin station came to be given that name. It seems it was named after the city in Illinois, a Chicago suburb, in which the buyer of toy trains for Sears happened to live.

The last chapter on this presentation is Christmas Memories. The vintage movies in this chapter brought back memories of the days when I played with my train.

I have purposely left chapter six for last as it is the longest chapter and showcases the layout of PCA member James Steed. Jim is the sole narrator of this chapter.

Jim started his layout in 2002 and "completed" it in 2012 although he states, as most other layout builders do, that it is not complete and if he wants to add something he merely makes a place for it on his layout. The layout is a U shape and takes up the majority of the 2,000 square feet of the lower level of his house. He runs both Lionel and Marx trains for the most part and all in the traditional transformer control mode. He can run seven trains at one time as well as four streetcar lines. He has over 400 buildings of various manufacturers and says he has one of every Plasticville building. I noticed that his Plasticville included the 5th Anniversary Dark Blue PCA two-story house. He also has over 1500 figures on the layout.

I feel that this is one of the most informative offerings from TM in quite some time. The format is a pleasant departure from their past offerings and made for a pleasant hour-plus viewing. I will be going back again to view it in order to glean some of the trivia offered in the various chapters. I don't feel you can go wrong buying this video.

**The Golden Age of Toy Trains** can be purchased from TM Books & Videos, Box 279, New Buffalo, MI 49117. Their website is www.tmbv.com. I also found it listed on Amazon's website at www.amazon.com starting at \$9.99 for a new copy.

South. One illustration that caught my attention was that of General Sherman standing next to one of his famous/infamous "Sherman bow ties" - a bent up section of railroad track.

I have always been of the impression that the joining of the rails at Promontory Point constituted the first transcontinental railroad in the world. Much to my surprise I was informed that a railroad was completed across the isthmus of Panama in 1855 in the 1865-1880 segment of this DVD making it the first true transcontinental railroad.

The final chapter, 1880-1916 is introduced with the Casey Jones song and a brief history of his exploits. The chapter starts with a brief interlude of various railroad related songs over the narrator's voice. It also touches on the setting of time zones by the railroad in 1883, air brakes and the Janney (knuckle) coupler in 1873, and Fred Harvey's restaurants as well as his dining cars used on the Santa Fe railroad. It also contains very brief biographies, and complimentary, of the most prominent rail barons.

There are numerous steam train run bys in this presentation. What is interesting is that these are shot such that it is almost impossible to determine the name of the railroad on the engine or tender. This merely adds to the feeling of watching the trains of the era in the chapter one is watching. The producers have also effectively used vintage photographs or period postcards throughout the entire 80 minutes.

I enjoyed watching this DVD and will definitely return to it in

the future to attempt to document all of the trivia facts presented in this production such as that it took a person one month to travel from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh by wagon but only 15 hours by train.

The Complete History of America's Railroads is currently

listed at \$19.95 on the publisher's website, a substantial reduction for the \$24.95 list price. If you wish to purchase the DVD direct from Marshall Publishing via their website it is http://www.marshallpublishinginc.com. Their phone order number is 888 300-3455.



North American Locomotives; A Railroad-by-Railroad Photohistory, Brian Solomon, 288 pages, 10 X 12 format, \$50.00; color and black & white photos throughout. Mr. Solomon's most recent offering is another coffee table book featuring locomotives used by various railroads over the years.

Each chapter contains two to four page chapters relating the locomotives currently

used by each railroad. There are some instances where historically significant locomotives are also featured. There are a total of 90 current and former railroads reviewed in this book.

The introduction is short at only four pages but it contains two very handy references. The first is a chart with the title, "Common Steam Locomotive Wheel Arrangements". Although the chart does not list every wheel arrangement it definitely covers the majority and, as noted, the most common wheel arrangements. The chart graphically illustrates the wheel arrangement; <00OOo, the numeric designation; 4-6-2, as well as the name by which it was generally called; Pacific.

The second chart is more of an information sidebar in which the designations of the diesel locomotive wheel arrangements are described. There is also a short paragraph in this sidebar explaining the designation of electric locomotive wheel arrangements.

The majority of each chapter consists of photos of the various locomotives used by the specific railroad. Each photo is captioned extensively. In some instances the captions are short stories that contain historical information that adds to the actual informational text in the chapter.

Each chapter also includes one or two sidebars. The title of these sidebars is FACTS. Each fact describes pertinent data related to a specific locomotive. Both steam and diesel and even an electric or two are included in these FACTS.

The book also contains a unique bibliography as it not only contains books used for reference but also a list of other sources including Internet sources. There are a total if sixteen Internet sources. There is also an extensive index.

As with all of Mr. Solomon's previous publications, this book is well researched, well written, and copiously illustrated. I always enjoy his photo-history books.

North American Locomotives; A Railroad-by-Railroad Photohistory can be purchased from Voyageur press through their website at

http://voyageurpress.com or http://qbookshop.com. You can also order by telephone at 800 458-0454. The book is listed on their website at \$50. The website also lists four other sellers if you prefer to make a purchase through a preferred seller such as Amazon. For you more tech savvy people the websites also lists nine different e-book purchase options. The book was listed on Amazon for \$27.76 when this review was written.

Don't forget to mention you saw the review of their product in the newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association when placing your order.









# The Parts Bin A PCA Membership Benefit

The parts listed on this page are offered free to members on a first come first served basis

The only cost is the packaging and postage cost to mail the pieces requested

Send an email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org listing the pieces you wish

or send your list to the address on the front page of this newsletter

Please specify part color, front, rear, left, or right walls in your request if applicable

# **UPDATED!**

# Check Out the Listings in Bold, They're NEW!

Cape Cod - walls, roofs - specify color

Suburban Station - platform, roof - green, white w/brown door wall, rear and side walls

Motel - roofs, front walks, walls - specify pink or white and w or w/o doors & windows

Small Super Market or Small Gas Station - side & rear walls - specify side needed

Hospital - red letters, steps - missing 1 pin, walls, - specify by wording on wall

Bridge & Pond - dark green

Station Platform - roofs, platforms - specify light or dark brown

School House - all walls - red - white lettering

School House - roofs - light gray - note that the color is not

consistent from one piece to the next

School House - cupola - white

AD-4 Airport Admin Bldg - walls, roofs

BN-1 Barn - specify parts and colors needed - no silos or caps

Colonial Mansion - chimney half - no pins

Fire House - roof, walls

Footbridge - missing one side

RH-1 - Ranch House walls - white w/light blue trim

New England Rancher - walls - specify needed and color

2 Story House - back wall, red Frosty Bar - roof, wall - white

Passenger Station - in box, no signs or chimney

Littletown Cape Cod wall - no window or door

Marx - General Store front wall - no window displays

Marx Ranch House front wall - white

Marx Ranch House center wall - white

2 Story House - gray roof

Ranch House - left wall, -yellow

Littletown House - garage front wall

Littletown House - chimney

Gray tank water tower w/glued on roof - ask about condition

Coaling tower roof - dark gray

Town Hall - front door & window assembly

Town Hall clock side - specify 4 or 2 lug side

CC-9 bell tower side - specify flat or notched bottom

Suburban Station small freight door - gray

New England Rancher - roof - brown - small section

### ALL PARTS LISTED BELOW ARE HO

Ranch house & Cape Cod patio, parts & full w/details - ask

Cattle pen - specify parts, some missing pins

Cape Cod roof - gray

Cape Cod rear wall - White w/dark gray door & windows

Cape Cod & Ranch House patio furniture - specify needed

Super Market - vertical marquee - white

Super Market - side/back walls & gray roof

Union Station - front canopy - green

Ranch House - window - white

Mailbox w/base

Crossing gate arm only - no base

Signal Bridge - glued - no lights - missing one base

Factory water tower - glued - missing one leg

Split Level House - wall A

Split Level - house light

Coaling Tower - gray base

Ranch House awning - small

Drive-In Bank or Auto Sales long wall

Various figures - specify needed

Cow

Door - black - marked 10

Water Tower - probably not Plasticville - marked 21, 22, 23

Coaling Tower? - Probably not Plasticville - marked G

Garage Door - brown - marked 6

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

Donors receive an in kind receipt from the PCA for the parts they donate.

Members have the opportunity to acquire needed parts.

Let's keep it going! What is in your "junk" box just taking up space that another member may need?

# **The Villager Classified Ads**

# Note:

Member name, address, email address, and member number should not be considered part of the word count.

The telephone number will be included in an ad only if it is 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.

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 in the For Sale or Wanted categories must be plastic village related. Items other than plastic village pieces such as trains or

non-plastic accessories are not allowed.

Ads in the For Trade category may contain toy trains or other items providing plastic village pieces are being traded or sought as one side of the trade. (Plasticville for trains or Department 56 for Plasticville.)

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.

The month and year at the end of each ad notes the last issue in which your ad will appear.

# For Sale

Look for my business card ad elsewhere in this newsletter. #02-121, David Allen, 318 Wheatsheaf Dr, New Castle. DE 19720 visit my website at plasticvillekitsforsale.webs.com (Aug 13)

Small collection and accumulation of Plasticville for sale. Prefer to sell as a lot rather than piece by piece. Send for list or request list by email at facltf@verizon.net. #02-87, Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Dr, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 (Aug 13)

Long-time collector thinning out collection. Have Plasticville, Littletown, Marx, Storytown. Call or email me your wants. All pieces complete with nice boxes. Some rare pieces. #01-39 Richard Sipes, 541 Sandy Valley Rd, White Haven, PA 18661 Phone 570 721-8028, richsipes60@gmail.com (Aug 13)

# For Trade

Fits perfect with Plasticville or Dept 56. Fleischmann Magic Trains (Discontinued in 2008) Euro style 2 axle bogies. Locos 0-4-0. All in original boxes. Over 100 pieces. Runs on HO track similar to ON30 size. Will trade for plastic village pieces I desire. #11-660 Harold (Hal) Seitz, 5141 NW 84th Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33351. hal5141@comcast.net (Aug 13)

Marx Fire House Roof. Have light gray roof. Want red roof.

#09-572 W Douglas McHan Jr, 113 New Milford Tpk, New Preston CT, 06777. robbie\_eggs@yahoo.com Put Marx Fire House in the subject if sending an email. (August 13)

Gray 1626 Corner Store roof for white roof. #01-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 515 771-6888 after 7:00 PM, johnln@netins.net (May 14)

# Wanted

Set of shrubbery for the Marx School House. Marx preferred, but K-Line OK. Cap for the Marx School House in light gray. Five basic fence pieces for the Plasticville #1623 Cattle Loading Pen. #99-01, Joe Kutza, 13301 Pepper CT, Germantown, MD 20874 Phone 301 528-6679 (Aug 13)

Roof for Split Level House, roof for red and white barn silo, felt or paper church stained glass window inserts, roof for Ranch House. Items are for O scale buildings. #01-81, Chris Rossbach, 135 Richwood Dr, Gloversville NY 12078 Phone 518 725-4446 (Aug 13)

1640-100 Presidential kit that came with set 1640W Campaign Special passenger train. Need banners, Plasticville figures, and packaging including box. #12-757, James Amato, 601 Broad St, Box 333, Sewickley, PA 15143 (Aug 13)

Looking for O/S scale parts and boxes. Need box for 1906 Factory, 1501 Bank, 1402 Switch Tower. Parts: need signal heads, brackets, all lenses and one upright for Signal Bridge; Gray ladder for 1615 Water Tank; one piece white wheels and axle for Automobile. #12-787, Jason Rackawack, 503 Race St, Catasaugua, PA rack776@yahoo.com (Nov 13)

LIONEL Plasticville in LN/OB to M/OB condition. Need some of the harder pieces such as 964 Factory, 987 Town set. 772-285-2388 9:00 AM-9:00 -PM EST Scott Gasiorek, 67 N River Rd, Stuart FL 34996(Feb 14)

Various parts and boxes. Email me for a list. #12-747 Patricia Mills, 427 Birch Rd, Hellertown, PA 18055-1901 donald.a.mills@verizon.net (Feb 14)

Red floor jack for #2807 Gas Station with Tower. #10-628 Ken Honick, PO Box 515, Buena-Vista, PA 15018 (Feb 14)

1951 Plasticville catalog. Small 1976 and 1979 Plasticville catalogs. Large 1977 Plasticville catalog. Brown marbled water tower spout. Buildings from K-Line train sets. #01-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 515 771-6888 after 7:00 PM (May 14)

# **New Bachmann Web Store Opens**

The following is a news release recently received from Bachmann Now you can enjoy the convenience of browsing online and ordering from Bachmann Trains' own Web Store at http://shopbachmanntrains.com. The new Web Store link on our menu bar takes you directly there and lets you check out our full product line.

Please note that all products are sold only at the full MSRP price and only online (there is no physical store). Bachmann always encourages you to support your favorite hobby retailer first to compare pricing and to tap into that store's valuable knowledge and support.

Please note that the Web Store replaces our participation in the Shopatron program, and we again thank all of the Shopatron retailers for their support and participation in the Shopatron system.

We hope you enjoy the convenience and variety offered by our new Web Store. Bachmann looks forward to serving you!

Do you have buildings that you would like to sell and without the hassle of Internet auction sites?

Do you have parts that you would like to sell and without the hassle of Internet auction sites?

Do you have buildings that you would like to trade?

Do you have parts that you would like to trade?

Do you have buildings that you want that don't seem to be available on Internet auction sites?

Do you have parts that you need that don't seem to be available on Internet auction sites?

As a member you may place up to a 50 word plastic village related classified ad in **each** of the three classified ad categories:

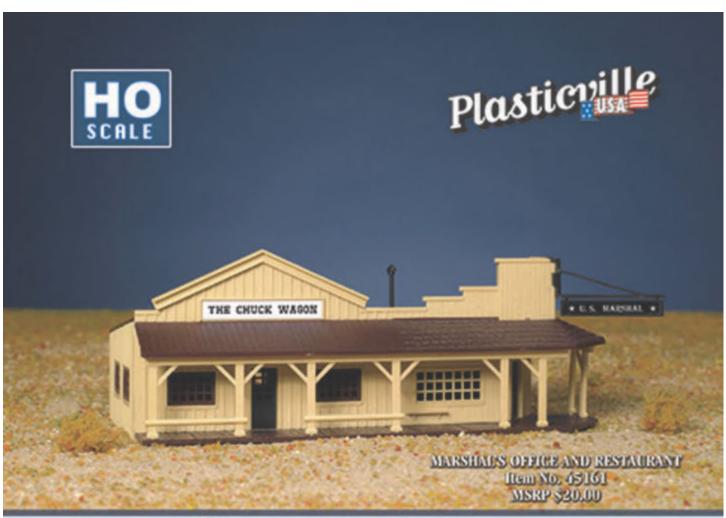
For Sale, For Trade, and Wanted, at **no charge!** The 50 word maximum does not include your contact information, but only the body of your classified ad.











# THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN!

Bachmann has reintroduced the classic HO scale Marshal's Office and Restaurant building kit with a new paint scheme and signs. Saddle up now to visit your favorite hobby dealer and see how this Old West icon has been given an arresting new look.

# Shipping Now!



TRAIN CREW Item No. 42333 MSRP \$10.25



OLD WEST FIGURE SET Item No. 42335 MSRP \$10.25



TRAIN WORK CREW Item No. 42341 MSRP \$10.25

Round up some residents for your frontier town and corral some train workers with our sets of Old West, Train Crew, and Train Work Crew Figures.