

The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 9

February 2010

Number 1

2010 Officer Election Results

The following are the results of the 2010 election of officers. The only office contested this year was that of Vice President. It is interesting to note, though, that there were write-in votes for President and Vice President.

President: Glenn Bowman has been elected to his second term as PCA President. There were two write-in votes for this office.

Vice President: James Dawes was successful in being elected to the office of Vice President for the first time over Reginald Henry. There were two write-in votes.

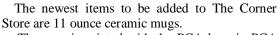
Secretary/Treasurer: John Niehaus will continue as Secretary/Treasurer as there were no opponents for that office.

John Niehaus has also agreed to continue in the role of newsletter editor. This is a volunteer position, not an elected position.

Joe Kutza, the club founder, has graciously agreed to continue in his volunteer role as webmaster.

The Executive Committee wishes to thank all of the members who cast their votes in this election

New Corner Store Items



They are imprinted with the PCA logo in PCA blue or in black. The thick walls on these mugs will keep your coffee warm for quite a while.

Each mug is only \$9.95 postpaid or \$13.95 for two with your choice of colors. The mugs were added to the items offered in The Corner Store based upon comments from members.

There is a limited number of each available. The black printed mug will probably not be offered once they are sold out.



Log Cabin with Chromed Rifle



Is this another Log Cabin variety? found it perusing eBay while back. This log cabin seems to have two unique features. First: the rifle and

coonskin cap over the door is chromed not yellow as it would be if it were one of the poly-bagged Davy Crockett log cabins. Chromed, not painted or molded in silver. Second: there seems to be no indication of a Davy Crockett label having been attached to the door. The PCA is interested in authenticating this piece. Please contact me at PCA@netins.net if you have this piece or can provide additional information.

The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

www.plasticvilleusa.org

President: Glenn Bowman Vice President: James Dawes Secretary/Treasurer: John L Niehaus

Webmaster: Joe Kutza

Newsletter editor: John Niehaus

of the Plasticville Collectors Association.

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From the President's Desk



Well here it is almost the end of January and it looks like we all survived the huge amount of Plasticville that showed up on eBay this year. It also produced more people entering the fellowship of the pursuers of Plasticville for the first time. I think as an organization, we need to take of advantage of this and

try to expand the size of the membership.

If you are a seller of Plasticville or any other brand of building kits, PLEASE offer your buyers info on the PCA. It will actually help you in the long run by creating a repeat, year-long customer. If you are a seller who only does only train meets, you can also help the PCA while helping yourself.

If you are not a seller, you too can help the PCA by offering other buyers or new collectors info. Ask fellow train collectors, they often also have an interest in PV. If you get to an estate sale or garage sale offering kits and see people looking at them, don't be shy and ask "are you a PCA member"? The more members we can add, the better the hobby will flourish. It means more people are asking friends and relatives if they have any older Plasticville stowed away not being used. It will bring out more of the gems we all seek.

While checking out some items for sale, I was reminded of an Email I received years ago questioning an item I had for sale. I was selling a factory with a gray roof and it had the brown platform. The seller wanted me to confirm that that was correct because a book someone had written showed the gray roof with a gray platform. I told her the kit I had was correct based on my experience and knowledge.

I then asked her about some other items that often appear in different configurations. The farm buildings kit #1617, should the feed trough match the roofs or the walls? The TV station ##1618, does the tower base match the walls or the roof? And the playground kit, what is the correct color of the chairs and table base for each color pool?

I am lucky enough to remember buying these kits new in the year they were first offered. I remember our TV station had red walls and the tower base matched the walls. Our farm building kit had the white walls and white trough. Our playground kit had a pink pool with a green base for the table and 1 of each color chair.

I think I see more pink pools with all yellow chairs. We must remember, these kits were assembled by people. They would compose the kits out of loose pieces so it was highly possible a different color part was used than was usually added.

Also, is it safe to assume if pieces were damaged, a replacement was used and who knows if it was correct or not? When I offer a kit for sale, its color combination is based on my knowledge and experience, and what is accepted as correct, or what is accepted as being the norm. I would love to hear from the membership about these and other kits.

Well it is time for me to put down the pencil and get to work. Glenn Bowman

Vice Presidential Insights



First, I would like to thank all who voted for me. I will do my best to live up to your expectations.

I have been a member of PCA for almost 10 years. I set up at numerous train shows and have gotten many compliments for my display of plasticville. Some people just look at the different styles of boxes, not

realizing there are so many colors and variations of ranch houses, cape cods and the different big box sets.

It's time to start a new year looking for that elusive Plasticville piece at train shows, yard sales, antique shows, and don't forget the infamous eBay.

You can sometimes find a good piece at a fair price on eBay but watch out for inflated shipping costs. If the stated shipping costs seem excessive or are not stated, don't bid.

Wishing all of you the best and I hope you are able to find what you are looking for. See you on the trail of a missing piece.

Thanks again, Jim

Notes from the Editor



PCA dues structure explained

In order to ensure that all members enjoy the type of membership they wish the Executive Committee revised the dues schedule at their October meeting. It seems that there may need to be a bit of clarification

regarding that schedule as I received both overpayments and underpayments during the recent dues renewal period.

Dues is either \$8, \$10, or \$40 depending on whether you want to only download the newsletter from the website, want black & white mailed copies, or want color mailed copies, respectively. Your dues level is strictly based upon the format in which you wish to receive the newsletters.

The current dues structure and what you receive at each membership level is:

ePCA - \$8.00 – You download the PCA newsletters from the Members section of the website. You do not receive any mailed newsletters. You do receive all other mailed materials including your membership card, annual ballot, etc.

Black & White mailed newsletter - \$10.00 – You are mailed the quarterly newsletter in a black and white printed format. You also receive all other mailed materials including your membership card, annual ballot, etc. You may also download the PCA newsletters from the Members section of the website at no additional charge if you wish.

Color mailed newsletters - \$40.00 – You are mailed the quarterly newsletter in a color printed format. You also receive all other mailed materials including your membership card, annual ballot, etc. You may also download the PCA newsletters from the Members section of the website at no additional charge if you wish.

Regardless of your membership level you have full and complete access to all of the material in the Members section of the website. This includes all current newsletters, all archived newsletters, and all other material in that section.

Passing members

Each year during the dues renewal period I receive letters, emails, or phone calls informing me that members have passed away. Listed below are two members who passed away last year and their passing had not been previously noted in *The Villager*.

Carl "Gus" Gustafson – 02-112 Glenn T Dailey – 04-278

Eastwood Automobilia

Some of you may remember the pages from an Eastwood Automobilia catalog offering Plasticville buildings that were published in the November 2008 issue of The Villager. The ads were from a September 1997 catalog. I would be very interested in hearing from anyone who may have purchased any of these items. I am aware of three sets that were offered in "limited edition" numbers of 2.500 and 5.000. One set contains a ranch house and a two story house. Another set contains the fire house and small gas station. The third set is most intriguing as the illustration shows the dairy barn, a horse and pig, and a grain bin. The title of this set is: Plasticville Barn, Silo, and Animal Set. I am intrigued as to whether the silo is the one that is part of the dairy barn or the gray grain bin in the illustration. regarding contents, packaging, or otherwise regarding these items will be greatly appreciated.

Used postage stamps

I wish to thank all of you who saved stamps this past year and sent them to me along with your 2010 dues payment. The total amount of stamps was nearly three quarters of a pound! That may not sound like much until you consider how much a single stamp on its piece of paper weighs. I am estimating that there are over three thousand stamps! Those stamps are going to create quite a few smiles on the faces of the youngsters who receive them. Thank you again.

Miscellaneous

On occasion I receive items for review that I do not feel merit a formal review but should receive a mention in the newsletter. In a recent mailing to me I received the book *How To Draw and Paint Trains Like a Pro* by Mitch Markovitz. It is as the title suggests a book on drawing and painting trains and is not directly related to model trains. It may be of interest to you members who are also artists. It is 128 pages with a price of \$19.99 from Motorbooks.com.

I also received a trolley that is a new addition to the Atlas O Industrial Rail line. This unit comes in quite a few different city names including Philadelphia, San Diego, and Chicago Surface Lines. The review model I received is World War II patriotically painted in red, white, and blue and sports the text "Buy War Bonds". The painting on the sample piece is excellent. It is a very quiet and smooth running piece. It is bumper reversible thus it can be used on a point to point line. The force required to reverse it when striking a bumper is quite light. The trolleys list on the Atlas website at \$94.95 each.

January 2010 Executive Committee Minutes

The January, 2010 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon, Eastern Time, on January 16 by President Glenn Bowman.

Those in attendance were; President Glenn Bowman, Vice-President James Dawes, Immediate past President Fred Ruby, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus.

Old business:

Downloading issues with electronic documents from the on line storage provider

Secretary Niehaus reported that files have been uploaded and Joe Kutza is in the process of testing to determine if they can be successfully downloaded.

Securing Plasticville photos on website to members only

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to request that the webmaster work with the website developer to secure the HO section of the website.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to create a sample section to give the public an idea of the contents of the Members section of the website. Glenn Bowman will work with Joe Kutza on the format and contents of this section.

Glenn Bowman reported that he and Joe Kutza have been working on formatting the Cape Cod building section the same as the Ranch House section.

Backup developer to ensure continuity of the website

Tabled due to Joe Kutza not being available to give a report.

10th anniversary piece

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to approach Bachmann with the suggestion that a barn and windmill combination be created for the 10th anniversary piece. The walls of the barn are to be the same blue color as the walls of the 5th anniversary house. The roof is to be same grey color as the 5th anniversary house. The PAC logo as well as the words "Tenth Anniversary 2011" is to be printed on one roof section. The windmill is to be the same blue color as the 5th anniversary house.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to request the Frosty Bar if the barn/windmill combination is not possible. The walls are to be the same blue color as the 5th anniversary house. The roof is to be in the same grey color as the roof of the 5th anniversary house and to include the PCA logo and the text, "Tenth Anniversary, 2011" printed on the roof.

Advertising in CTT and TCA

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has not contacted either CTT or the TCA regarding advertising schedules.

New Business:

Coffee mug pricing and black printed mug disposal

Secretary Niehaus reported that due to an error on the part of the supplier the PCA now has both the correct blue logo as well as mugs with the PCA logo printed in black on the mugs.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to advertise both color mugs in The Corner Store with a price of \$9.95 for a single mug and \$13.95 for two mugs with the choice of colors to be specified by the purchaser.

Remove member number field from 2011 ballots

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to retain the member number field on the 2011 ballot. Although the club is small it was felt that asking for the member number now establishes a precedent for when an independent firm verifies the membership number while counting the ballots. The PCA Secretary is the only person at present that verifies and counts the ballots.

Ease of locating bylaws

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to add a link to the bylaws and mission statement as separate links on the Information tab of the website home page.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus

Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, January 18, 2010



More on Illuminated Plastic Churches

By Richard Wedekindt

in the hole in

the back wall.

however, have

a music box

'Silent Night'.

It measures 7"

wide, 5" deep

and 12 3/4"

high. There is

no cross on

the top, but a

place for one.

The left corner

of the front

step is broken

off as well as

the top left

corner of the

front wall. The

manufacturer

the same,

which

does.

plays

The May, 2007 issue of *The Villager* contained my article on illuminated plastic churches.

I found another one, actually two, at a flea market in Mayville, NY on August 16th of this year. It is slightly larger than the other two and does not have a light socket



Another style musical, but not lighted, church manufactured by Raylite Electric Corporation of New York City.

Raylite Electric Corp.; NY, NY.

At the same table was a small plastic church with white walls and a

red roof. There are 8 colored windows which let light in or out. The removable base has place for a light socket. There is an inlaid gold cross over the gold doors. front The plastic bell in the tower is also gold. There are no manufacturers names on the inside or outside. It 4" measures wide, 6" deep



This church of unknown manufacturer has white walls, red roof, multi-colored "stained glass" windows and a gold inlaid cross over the door. If you have any information regarding who may have manufactured it please contact the author or the editor.

and 9" high. Can anyone help identify this church?

Photos of Christmas Past

By Richard Schurman







For as long as I can remember I have always loved Plasticville along with my Lionel trains. You can see some of my early buildings in these photos (circa 1960). Some visible are the barn & animals, hobo shacks, corner store, gas station, house under construction, suburban station, church, switch tower, TV station, and frosty bar.

The cute dog in the picture chewed the F off my frosty bar sign, stole and chewed the plastic top off my Lionel banjo signal and mowed down the white sign on the watchmen's shanty.

I was able to get the Lionel replacement pieces at Madison Hardware and the frosty bar sign at a train show.

I love being in the PCA and The Villager is always interesting and entertaining.

(This was scheduled for the November, 2009 edition of The Villager but was inadvertently omitted. Editor)

Greenberg's 2010 Pocket Price Guides

By John Niehaus



The 2010 editions of Greenberg's Pocket Price Guides are now available. The Lionel guide is 334 pages. The American Flyer edition is 110 pages. They are in the same 4 x 8

1/2 format as the many previous years.

A large starburst on the cover of the Lionel guide proclaims, "NEW SECTION ON BOXES". When I reviewed this new section I found approximately one and a half pages of listings. One would presume that this will grow over the years.

With this year's guides I will be making comparisons between the prices in this year's issue and last year's for both Lionel and American Flyer. I wish thank Joseph Kmetz for supplying me with a list of scarce American Flyer pieces for comparison. The changes this year were somewhat erratic in that some pieces appreciated while others depreciated.

The values for every Lionel item I review each year remained the same as last year. This was regardless of

whether I was looking at the good or excellent values. These items include the #8 Maroon prewar electric, the postwar #2343 double A Santa Fe F3's, and the 8702 Southern 4-6-4 steamer, and others.

The values for American Flyer did not fare as well. Of the items I reviewed all but one stayed steady regarding the good values. The values for excellent condition items dropped anywhere from four to 10 percent. The only bright spot was the #342 0-8-8 Nickel Plate switcher. The value in excellent condition rose from \$1500 to a whopping \$1750 an over sixteen percent rise.

As values are remaining pretty steady and in some cases dropping, it seems to me that the toy train collecting hobby is still seeing the effect of the current economic downturn.

For those of you who purchased trains to operate and enjoy then the current collector value is probably of minimal concern. If you are a collector/investor it may be wise to hold onto your trains a bit longer.

The price listed on the 2010 Lionel guide is \$18.95. The price on the American Flyer guide is \$15.95. They are available from Kalmbach Books, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI, 53186. www.kalmbachbooks.com. Their U.S. toll free number is 800-533-6644 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The phone number if you are calling from Canada or outside the U.S. is 262-796-8776 Ext. 421. They are also available on the Amazon website as well as both Borders Books and Barnes & Noble's websites.



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LCCA Air Terminal & Hanger (Blue/Orange) Mint \$40/set

0550 King Add-A-Floor (Red or Brown) MT \$10 ea - With 3 WHITE shrubs \$15 ea

0400 King Mobile Home (Blue or Buff walls) \$20 ea-2/\$30

FH-4 Fire House (Grey Siren) \$75

1809 Loading Platform, Mint \$20

1630 Telephone Poles, Mint \$15.

1923 Roadside Stand Mint, Sealed \$75

1913 Motel, No Cars \$15

1900 Turnpike, Mint \$90

1908 Split Level House, Mint \$60 1807 Two Story House, Mint \$65

1816 Watchman Shanty, Mint \$25 PF-4 Citizens (painted) \$10 1611 Hardware & Pharmacy, Hard Box # \$95.00 AD-4 Air Admin. Bldg. Mint \$90

Complete Kits, Without Box

 Railroad Work Car \$10
 Suburban Station \$10
 Barn \$10

 Motel \$10
 Hobo Shacks \$15
 School \$15

 Fire Department \$15
 Diner (red or yellow roof) \$15
 Bank \$25

Supermarket (small) \$15 Colonial Mansion (red roof) \$25

King Add-A-Floor (red or brown) \$8 ea or 3/\$19 NE Ranch (white/tan windows/black roof) \$25

Mobile Homes (8 different colors) \$15 ea or 8/\$95

Single Items

SS-5 Street Corner signs with original tag \$2 ea - no tag \$1 ea 1050 Outhouse (brown) \$5 ea or 3/\$12 1090 Telephone Booth (blue) 5/\$25 or (white) 6/\$30 Ambulance (yellow or green) \$5 ea Fire Trucks, red (1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$10/set Bus (yellow or green) \$5 ea

Fire Trucks (new), yellow (1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$15/set Pickup Truck \$8 ea

Jeep, Tractor, Plow, Harrow \$4 ea or 4/\$12 BBQs \$2.50 ea or 5/\$9.50

Shrub Assortment (48 total) 6 each of green, blue, red, yellow, buff, flesh, chocolate & WHITE - \$50.

WHITE SHRUBS 10/\$25

PLASTICVILLE REPRODUCTION PARTS - \$2 ea OR any combination of 25 or more for \$1.50 ea

Fire Department siren or chimney cap Oar (red, yellow) Cattle Pen cross bars (with 2 holes or slot)
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Castle flag or chain (red, yellow, blue, white) Straight chair Clothesline (red, yellow, green)

Police Department red light* or chimney cap Desk chair Log Cabin chimney Bank red light*, large canopy, small canopy Airport wind sock School white light*

House Under Construction shovel, rake, hoe, bucket, or sawhorse *Police Department, Bank, and School lights are not reproductions.

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303 Street Lights \$25 #304 Fence \$15 #306, #307, #308, #310, #311, #312, #313 - \$65/kit

KING PLASTICVILLE — Covered Bridge (grey roof) Mint \$35 KING PLASTICVILLE ERTL TRACTOR TRAILER WITH BANK \$15

PLASTIC VILLAGE GAZETTE - Issues 1, 5 & 6 - \$2.50 ea; other issues \$5 ea

Many empty Plasticville boxes available.

Want lists welcomed

Dealer inquiries welcome for Plasticville Guides and Plasticville parts listed above.

Shipping: Books \$5 Kits or ERTL truck \$6 Parts \$3.50 LCCA Set \$8

Creative Use of Damaged Parts

Apartment for Rent

By Edward Johnson

Apt. for Rent: 3rd floor walkup, recently renovated one bedroom apt. Full bath, Living room/ dining area, compact galley style kitchen, private bedroom. Top floor apt. in the exciting downtown area. No pets. Maid service included.

I guess by now most club members know that my modeling projects are influenced by the older sections of Brooklyn, N.Y.

This model is based on a Littletown corner store which was extended using parts from other Littletown stores.

The grocery store - *The Natural Corner* - has interior detail made with images from the internet. The small extension to the grocery store is its refrigerated store room. The refrigeration unit is on its roof.

The upper stories are made with cardstock, brick paper and Grandt Line windows. It is the overhanging corner windows, very common to many older buildings that I tried to capture. The building has a staircase leading up to the two apartments.

The top floor apartment is detailed with 1/48 scale doll house furniture and some miscellaneous items. The roof is removable.

The two goose neck lights are a Walthers HO product. Eventually I will light the entire model.

Notice the junior engineer playing with a large toy crane. He is a modified Circus Craft figure. His crane is made with parts of an old aircraft carrier model and a small sci-fi bomber. My wife says one of my bad habits is that I don't throw anything away and I am glad that I don't or junior would not have his toy crane.









Apt. for Rent: 3rd floor walkup. Recently renovated one bedroom apt. Full bath, Living room/ dining area, compact galley style kitchen, private bedroom. Top floor apt. in the exciting downtown area. No pets. Maid service included.

The main floor of this building is a natural foods store. An extension was built onto the rear as a refrigerated storeroom. The refrigeration unit can be seen on the roof of the extension in the center left photo.

The third floor is fully furnished with 1/48 dollhouse furniture complete with a maid, center right photo. Maybe she is also the person renting the apartment?

Meanwhile, a young boy plays with his crane on the sidewalk outside the store, far right photo. He is also visible playing on the sidewalk in the center left photo.

That's all folks, Eddie J







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Plasticville on the Board

Moving Through Time

By John Gottcent

In many ways, building layouts is like constructing sets for the theater. You want to create a certain effect for your "audience," be it the realism of high rail layouts or the whimsicalness of traditional toy trains. You want the effect to be pleasing, so you position your buildings and accessories with care and forethought. You pay attention to lighting and sound.

You also work in three dimensions, and aim for perspective. For example, you may place larger buildings up front and smaller ones further away to increase the notion of depth.

There's also a fourth dimension, though, that often gets ignored - time. Many layouts appear locked in time, with the same season always depicted, and people and vehicles static and frozen. However, just as a scene designer sometimes wants to suggest the passage of time - by fading the furniture, changing pictures on the wall, aging the characters - it can be useful and fun to attempt the same with your plastic village.

I thought of this recently while looking at my vintage House Under Construction and realizing it bears the same footprint (and may have been struck from some of the same molds) as the Cape Cod House. Since one kit is designed as an "earlier version" of the other, I thought, why not play this up by running through the whole construction process on my layout?

Since this project allowed me to focus on just one building, I knew it wouldn't be terribly hard or disruptive to my overall plans. So I set about taking the building of a Cape Cod through its various stages, allowing each to remain on the board for a few weeks so repeat visitors could watch the progress over time.



The land is cleared and construction begins on Plasticville's newest Cape Cod house

I began by preparing the area. I cleared a space in my village by removing all landscaping except for dirt and some "wild" grasses. In the middle of this area I prepared

a "foundation hole" painted dirt brown, and then surrounded the scene with appropriate details. These included a cement mixer, a backhoe, and several construction workers. Since the project is supposed to have begun in a cooler season of the year, the workers are dressed appropriately in long sleeves and jackets. In the foreground, a nosy neighbor and his dog watch the scene. In the background, life goes on as usual, with cars driving by, and the postman about to deliver mail to the Hardware and Pharmacy store. (See Photo One.)



The frame is up and the workers continue their jobs

After a few weeks, it is time to show progress, so I set up my House Under Construction (hereafter called the HUC), change the cement mixer for a brick delivery truck, deep-six the backhoe, and bring in new workers assigned to different tasks. The HUC kit's accessories—wood pieces, sawhorses, ladders, etc.—help show that a different stage of construction is at hand. Still, the nosy



The building is under roof and the weather is starting to warm up.

neighbor looks on (though his dog has apparently moved to more interesting adventures), and the postman continues to deliver to the store, providing a semblance of continuity. (Photo Two.)

In Photo Three, things start to get interesting. A new truck is now delivering roofing supplies, and the building itself is "under roof," the latter provided by a Cape Cod kit, whose parts fit exactly onto the HUC frame. The chimney is not yet installed, allowing a roof worker to kneel in its opening while doing his chores. And since the weather is warming up, the workers now appear in short sleeves and lighter clothing. But the neighbor and postman carry on as usual.



With summer in full swing, attention turns to finishing details.

In Photo Four, the chimney is up and some of the outer walls are "finished" - i.e., replaced with walls from the Cape Cod. It's now summer, so the workers either remove their shirts or cover their heads with sweat rags. Most supplies have been delivered, so the driveway now holds an empty red pickup. Yet neighbors must watch, and the mail must go on.



The house is finished and its residents enjoy their new home

Finally, the house is finished and its owners have moved in. (Photo Five). The workers are gone, a tree has been planted, and the driveway now sports the family car. Children cavort in the backyard, and since cooler weather has returned, they're bundled up against the cold. The neighbor has decided that watching a house that's completed is not nearly as interesting as watching one in progress, so he's returned home, though his dog, ironically, is back. (Perhaps he's taking refuge in the newly completed dog house.) But neither rain, nor snow, nor the passing of time, keeps the U.S. Postal Service from its appointed rounds.

This is a fun project that requires little more than patience and imagination. It's a great way to show regular visitors that even in Plasticville, time marches on.

If you have comments, or ideas for future columns, contact me at jandjgott@gmail.com. Meanwhile, happy villaging!

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Along the "HO" line

Lighted Scenic Classics

By Todd Hendrickson

A few years after the HO Scenic Classic kits were released by Bachman, the Lighted Scenic Classics kits were released. They were in their catalogs from 1983 through 1988. The early catalogs in which they were illustrated contained banner text noting that they pieces were lighted. The last catalogs in which they appeared merely noted they were lighted in the descriptive text.



Two of six kit boxes the Lighted Scenic Classic kits, the Lighted Factory and Dock, left, and the Lighted Fire House, right. The tractor trailer truck is illustrated on the Factory & Dock box. My kit came with two black station wagons.

There were only six kits in the Lighted Scenic Classics series. They basically are the same buildings as the Scenic Classics but came with a Bachman light kit (#24000).

When I asked my Father for one of these kits and he had said, "No", and that he could do better. He went through the Christmas decorations box and found hundreds of strands of clear lights.

Instead of having only one lighted building I got to light them all, showing that these kits were not essential to my collection.

With the short run of these kits and seeing as the only difference is supposedly the single light kit, I bet many of you are thinking, "Why is he writing this?"

Actually what I found was when I opened these kits I found a lot of differences between them and their unlighted counterparts.

Compared to the normal Scenic Classics kits, the Lighted Fire House (#49-2574) has a color variation. Instead of being white, it is tan. The telephone booth and other accessories came painted unlike with the Scenic Classics line where all the accessories came in black or brown.

The biggest surprise was the Lighted Factory & Dock (#49-2575). A childhood friend of mine who did not have the room for this kit on his layout added it to mine. The kit should have had a tractor trailer truck in it, but his came with two station wagons which I had never seen

before in this kit. It is possible that this kit was assembled at the end of the production run and the tractor trailer truck was no longer available so Bachmann substituted the station wagons.

These kits were probably overlooked by most HO collectors when they were released thinking that they contained the same color building but with an added light kit. If you look closer you can see that they offer a bit more for the avid collector to add to their collection.



The #49-2575 Factory lighted Scenic Classic kit illustrated a tractor trailer truck on the box. My kit came with two black station wagons causing me to believe that they were a substitute for unavailable trucks.

Any comments, questions, or if you find something new regarding these kits, e-mail me at Mortemobire@yahoo.com

Lighted Scenic Classic kits

49-2571 Two Story House 49-2572 Split Level House 49-2573 Barn, Silo & Animals 49-2574 Fire House 49-2575 Factory & Dock 49-2576 Country Church



A Treasured Christmas Accessory Reborn

By Nan Cashour

My memories of Christmas' past in the 1960's always, included the two train sets my father had as a child and passed on to my brother and me, along with accessories that he made for us.

The most memorable accessory I remember was a little black bridge that our father made one Christmas season to cross over one of the roadways. We treasured it from year to year. More than 20 years later, the entire train set was sold, including the accessories.

Through the years I've thought many times of this bridge and realized the love my father put into making it for us. I could so vividly remember it that I decided to make one from memory.

It actually turned out so well that I decided to share its' construction with all the members so you can make one for your own Christmas layout or villa under your Christmas tree.

If you follow along with the picture, you can see how it is made --- The bridge bottom is made from a cigar box top cut in half and painted black. Six, black painted, wooden dowels – three per side - are glued down the long sides to the sides of the box top. The chain, bought from a hardware store, is draped across the top of each dowel and secured with a rounded top thumbtack. VIOLA!

Note: There are plastic push pins in red, green, clear, and also yellow that can be used instead for the thumbtacks for the dowels on each corner.



One half of a cigar box top, six wooden dowels, a short section of chain, and six thumbtacks and you have a small pedestrian bridge over a set of railroad tracks or a runway for the celebrities attending a premier at your local theater. Could it also be a queuing line for youngsters wising to visit Santa?

Lionel

Plasticville

American Flyer

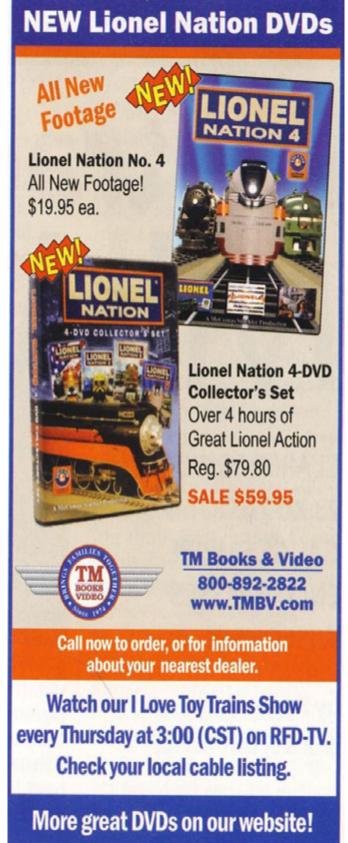
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Non-Railfan Antics

A View from the Other Side

By Gordon C Kelley

The Wisconsin Central ran a local freight between Neenah and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. It set out and picked up cars at various stations including massive slabs of granite at Valders, Wisconsin. These large slabs were placed on old TFC piggy back flats. They were tied down with large chains. To me that was like tying down a military tank with rubber bands. These loads were placed on the head of the train that was to be yarded at Manitowoc. To some Wisconsin Central officials "the rock" was gold. To me it was death at a grade crossing just waiting for a date!

"The rock" and large grain cars were dragged through downtown Manitowoc along the west side of a main street, uphill and into the yard. Once into the yard, "the rock" was set out by the morning switch engine along with the weighers from Miller Compressing. We then dragged them back through town to be spotted on "the island". "The island" had thousands of rock slabs piled there but that made no difference to the "gold worshipping" trainmasters.

The morning switch engine was to set out "the rock", dig out the grain cars that Anheuser Busch requested and spot them at the Busch malt plant. The plant had to have an early spot of cars otherwise it would shut down. We were to pull the loaded malt cars and then go up to the yard and put the loads on the outbound track.

We then were to spot Miller Compressing and double the weighers to "the rock", go through downtown Manitowoc, spot the rock on "the island", weigh the weighers, go back to the yard and double the weighers to the malt loads on the outbound track for the local evening freight to take back to Neenah. Now enters the "gold lovers"! They would wait until we started shoving twenty grain loads to the malt plant and order us to stop, go back to the yard, and spot the rock! The worthless rock had to be spotted first, period! That meant that the malt plant would very possibly shut down.

The leader of the "gold lovers" was a trainmaster by the nickname of Mr. Magoo. He got that name because of the soda bottle bottom glasses that he wore. We claimed that he drove with a prescription windshield in his car. His thinking matched his poor eyesight thus he would order "the rock" to be spotted first.

We tried to explain how the malt plant would be affected and how our time would be wasted with trips downtown. No way – the rock had to be spotted first and to the devil with everything and everyone else! If we did not spot the rock first it was insubordination and we would lose our jobs.

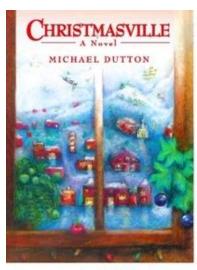
The malt plant was going wild. We were dying for time. Other customers were not being serviced. Shippers were not being placed on the evening freights and were missing their connections. Still, 'the rock' ruled.

Ultimately Mr. Magoo was caught working twenty-two straight hours. The railroad was fined \$5,000 by the Federal Railroad Administration and Mr. Magoo was sent to haunt the yard at Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Within one day we were back to normal. The malt plant was happy and in operation. We were not dying for time. All of our other customers were being serviced and the shippers were making their connections. How great it was to have Mr. Magoo placed where he no longer could make such bone headed decisions.







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(Coming Soon! -

"Finding Christmasville")



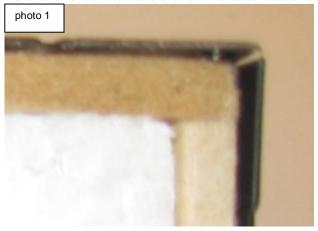
Wisconsin Avenue Grade School ala Marx

By Ed Berg

My Marxville & Plateau RR is a 'U'-shaped 'wedding cake' style layout, so called because it has multiple levels that are not connected to each other. It is primarily a Marx layout as its name suggests, although I'll run Lionel, K-Line, Williams or whatever else strikes my fancy, but the structures are all Marx - so far. As work progresses, the town of Marxville is slowly taking shape. The school will sit on the upper level along with the fire and police stations. This diorama works just as well for the Marx #3822 School House Set, the K-line #K-4061, or #K-406101 school houses

The inspiration for this diorama was my childhood grade school, Wisconsin Avenue Grade School in Milwaukee, WI. It had quite a few elements, that, when selectively compressed, would make a nice display for the Marx School House. First, it sat above the level of the street, and sat forward on its lot with a large playground in the back surrounded by a chain-link fence. The playground did have a tree - and if my faulty memory serves me right - actually two trees. Everything in the diorama is laid out in relation to the way it was at my old school, with one exception. Where the swing set/slide/climbing bars sit in the diorama there was actually a softball diamond and my school had no bike rack or water fountain ('bubbler' as they were called in Milwaukee), but I wanted to highlight the accessories that came with the Marxville School House.

Once I decided on the basic 'feel' of the diorama, building it was fairly straight forward. The first step was actually buying the chain-link fence (available from ScenicExpress as item #EX0585). Once I had this in hand the overall dimensions of the base could be



determined based on the lengths of fencing and the size of the school house, more on the fencing later.

The base is a scrap of 3/4" Styrofoam with a cut-out at the front for the stairs. It measures 11 5/8" x 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". A frame of 3/16" x 1" stripwood was glued around the

perimeter (photo 1). The extra ¼" in the height of the balsa wood allowed for a raised edge along each side of the base. This makes the overall dimensions of the base



12" x 15 5/8". Next a 1/8" x 1/4" balsa wood cap was glued around the perimeter and painted a light gray water color that I got from a Michaels craft store.

The stairs and walkway in front were added using balsa wood and a section of ScenicExpress sidewalk (no longer in production) and also painted gray. The brick around the circumference is embossed plastic brick sheet used for doll houses (photo 2). The brick rows, or 'courses', were just the right size and didn't need to be cut right through the middle of row. These were attached to the stripwood on the base with silicone adhesive which didn't work as well as I'd hoped and several spots had to be tacked with an all-purpose gap filling type super glue.

Next, the top of the Styrofoam in the playground area, which has a rough surface, was covered with pre-mixed lightweight patching plaster (photo 3). This gave a somewhat smooth surface, but not perfect which is fine

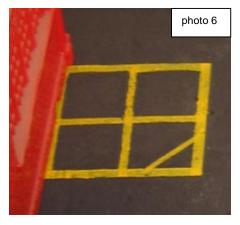
because it's good a enough match for the worn asphalt surface of the real playground. It was then painted with Woodland Scenics 'Top Coat Asphalt' #ST1453.





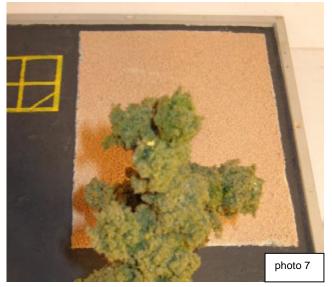
Next a Woodland Scenics tree was 'planted' using silicone adhesive – which worked just fine this time. The area around the trunk was carved out a little so that roots could be added and look as if they were sunk into the ground (photo 4). The roots were added using twigs, the area around the trunk painted brown filled in using





Woodland Scenics 'Earth Tone Blend Turf' #WD0050 glued down using the 50/50 mix (photo 5).

The kiddies needed a little more than swings and slide to play on during recess and I remembered the game of '4-squares' we used to play. I decided to paint on a yellow '4-squares' game grid. Using the 'good-enough' principle, a 2" square was decided on, masked off and painted (photo 6). My school actually had several of



these in that approximate location on the playground.

Now for the swing set area; it was masked off, painted a tan color and Woodland Scenics 'Fine Buff Ballast' #B73 sprinkled on, followed by the 50/50 mix (photo 7).

The front lawn was first painted a dark green, sifted with Woodland Scenics 'Green Blend Turf' #WD0049, and sprinkled with a 50/50 mixture of white glue and water with liquid dishwashing detergent added to make the water 'wetter'.



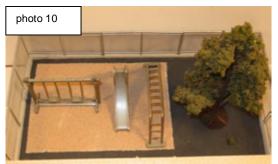
The chain link fence mentioned earlier was now added. These are made from a mesh material sandwiched between styrene cross members. All you need to do is cut the poles to length, trim off some of the excess webbing, file the poles to smooth them out some, spray paint them, drill holes to accept the posts and install them (photo 8).

A couple of 'hedges' were planted between the end of the fence and the rear of the building to close off the playground area.



A flag, a promotional giveaway from a local company, was added to the lawn. It had no 'truck' – that ball that sits atop the pole – so I bought some beads from Michaels, superglued a length of

coat hanger wire in the bead, painted the bead brass,



attached it to the pole and planted the pole in the front lawn (photo 9).

The final touch of course is to place the building and

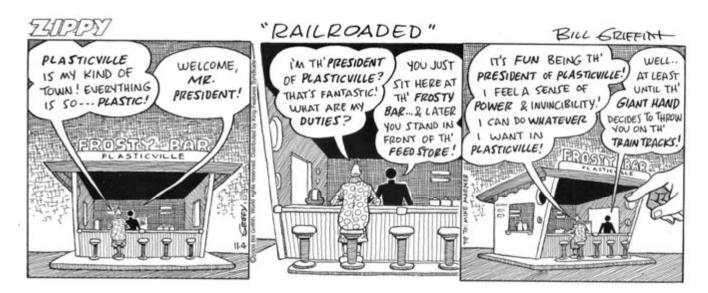


all the accessories on the diorama base (photos 10 & 11).

My layout is still a work in progress and when installed this will be a welcome addition to the Marxville & Plateau RR. I enjoyed making this diorama and hope you enjoyed the results of this project as well.

Happy Railroading! Ed "ICE" Berg.

If you like to see trains, trains, and more trains, visit my website at: http://trainstoysntravel.com where you'll find dozens of 3-rail O-gauge layouts, some HO scale, some Standard Gauge and even some 12"to the-foot scale trains. Hundreds of photos and many building tips - enjoy



ZIPPY THE PINHEAD is a King Features syndicated comic strip that runs in many newspapers on a daily schedule. Credit has to be given to Mike Marmer an S-scaler for the above Zippy the Pinhead strip. According to Mike, the strip creator, Bill Griffith likes to set Zippy in real places. Mike has been sending photos of statues and buildings to Bill for years. He felt that these were places that Zippy should visit in a comic strip. Mike especially loves diners, particularly the ones in New Jersey.

Eventually, he sent photos of his layout to Bill, including photos depicting the Frosty Bar. One has to feel that the "real place" in the strip must be Mike Marmer's layout.

To quote an old phrase, "The rest is history!" The Plasticville Frosty Bar has now been immortalized in a nationally syndicated comic strip!

Visit Bill Griffith's "Zippy" website at http://www.zippythepinhead.com to view his other strips and to order either a black and white or hand colored copy of this strip. (©,used with permission)

Collecting Select Rare "S" American Flyer and Lionel Flyer Pieces

Joseph B Kmetz

Toy train collecting, like any hobby, should be based on your personal preferences and desires. For most of us, this was formed early with heavy family and regional influence except in my case (I was the only one in my family with an interest in trains and started with a clean slate). Operating toy trains sometimes, but not always, is an extension of your own specific desires to see trains you want to be associated with when running a layout; it's a true divider between scale and toy trains because one is linked to a specific prototype and the other is based on dreams. Growing up in Queens New York, I observed all the rail action in the late 1940's to around 1960 and was hooked on every railroad and every type of car..This has influenced me the most when operating; even our existing Subway and 'el' system back then was like an adventure every time I rode it. With this in mind, I developed and kept a keen desire to operate as a "Highrailer" and mix all the trains I remember well when I operate with American Models and S Helper trains.

Since I do not collect everything American Flyer ever made, personal likes are heavily weighted in the following listing of "rare" Post-War American Flyer "S" Gauge by A.C. Gilbert; it is by no means complete.

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STEAM LOCOMOTIVES
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# 336 UP [4 - 8 - 4] (53 thru 57)
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342 NKP [0 - 8 - 0] (46 - 48, 52)

350 B & O Royal Blue [4 - 6 - 2] (48, 50)

353 American Flyer Circus [4 - 6 - 2] (50)

356 Silver Bullet [4 - 6 - 2] (53)

21004 Pennsy B-6 Switcher [0 - 6 - 0] (57)

21089 F Y & P R R "Washington" [4 - 4 - 0] (60, 61)

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES

ALCO PA/PB's

362 Santa Fe PA/ PB 360/361 WARBONNET (1950)

#4713 Santa Fe PA/ PB/ PA 470/471/473 (1953-57)

4778 Silver Flash PA/ PB 477/478 (53, 54)

4856 Santa Fe PA/ PB/ PA 484/485/486 FREIGHT COLORS (56, 57)

4913 Northern Pacific PA/ PB/ PA 490/491/493 (56)

4945 New Haven PA/ PA 494/495 (56)

21920/21920-1 Missouri Pacific PA/ PA [MARKED WITH THESE NUMBERS] (58)

EMD GP.7's1

3745 Texas & Pacific [PAIR] 374/375 (54, 55)

3778 Texas & Pacific [PAIR] 377/ 378 (56)

21234 Chesapeake & Ohio [SINGLE UNIT] 234 (59, 61)

BALDWIN

21813 Minneapolis & St. Louis Ry. 458 (60)

21918/21918-1 Seaboard Ry. [PAIR] [MARKED WITH THESE NUMBERS] (58)

PASSENGER EQUIPMENT

HEAVYWEIGH SERIES

978 American Flyer Lines Observation [RED] w/ Brakeman (56 - 58)

STREAMLINED CARS

900 Northern Pacific "North Coast Ltd." Combine # 901 Northern Pacific "North Coast Ltd." Coach

902 Northern Pacific "North Coast Ltd." Vista Dome # 903 Northern Pacific "North Coast Ltd." Observation

24856 Missouri Pacific "The Eagle" Combine

24859 Missouri Pacific "The Eagle" Coach

24863 Missouri Pacific "The Eagle" Vista Dome # 24866 Missouri Pacific "The Eagle" Observation

LIONEL - AMERICAN FLYER [RARITIES]

New York Central "20th CENTURY LIMITED" Set # 49611 issued in 2002 with Two Alco PA's and four streamlined passenger cars. The boxed Set consisted of the following: ALCO PA #48133 [POWERED] ALCO PA #48134 [NON-POWERED], # 48953 New York Central 2570 Combine , #48954 New York Central 3766 Coach, #48955 New York Central "MANHATTAN ISLAND" Vista Dome , and #48956 New York Central "WINGATE BROOK" Observation car.

ALCO PB #48135 [WITH TMCC RAILSONDS] (03) This is the first time Lionel put full sound into a Flyer unit

48961 New York Central Two-Car Add On set (48962, 48963) (02)

48962 3767 Coach *

48963 580 Diner *

48964 New York Central 9194 Full Baggage Car, (03) [STREAMLINED]

* It has been suggested to Kalmbach publishing over several years to list these two pieces in the Greenberg's guide. They are still not listed as of the 2010 edition of the guide. I include them because they are a real rarity and hopefully will be listed in the future. (The editor wishes express his thanks to Joseph for this article as it became the basis upon which he made value comparisons for the

Greenberg's guides article include elsewhere in this newsletter.)

What Members Are Saying

Would you please keep my ad running in *The Villager*. I'm not an active collector but would like my childhood Plasticville items to go to someone in the Association. I have email photos if you need them. Thanks for your help. (Allan Becker)

The most recent issue of *The Villager* was asking for a volunteer for Marx and K-Line products. I collect Marx trains and of course plastic buildings for my train layout.

Like most members of the PCA, I probably have more Plasticville pieces than any other manufacturer's pieces, but I do have a fair amount of both Marx and K-Line pieces.

Via e-mails, I lent assistance to Doug Gilliatt and Glenn Raymond for their article on accessories packaged with Marx buildings that appeared in *The Villager*.

I probably don't have as many pieces as either of these gentlemen, but, if no one else has volunteered, I'll volunteer as a contact for Marx and K-Line pieces. (Jim Gordon) (Jim has been added as a second contact person for both Marx and K-Line buildings. Thank you, Jim, for volunteering your expertise. Editor)

......Not sure if I will be at the luncheon as we may be leaving Friday AM. York was ruined when it opened Thursday and now kills the better part of a week. Our crew will arrive on Wednesday and leave Friday AM.....(Lud Spinelli)

Thanks for offering color newsletters for us with dialup Internet (Jim Farace)

.....I really enjoy being a PCA member. I am getting lots of nice Plasticville items. I have gotten some that I thought I would never find (Bob Stout)

Thank you very much for your reply to my letter that was enclosed with my application.

I am going to order the little pieces that are missing from my collection. It is so great to know that there is somewhere out there where someone else appreciates the Plasticville pieces as much as I do.

I look forward to receiving the newsletter each month. (Helen Atwell) (Your editor would have to perform those duties full time to publish a monthly newsletter. Until then we will have to stay with quarterly newsletters. Editor)

....I am still trying to figure out what the soldiers associated with the Marx army barracks and the Cowboys associated with the Marx Ranch House actually look like. I have not seen a picture of these buildings with the figures that convinces me that the figures are the actual ones associated with these two buildings. Would you have any information about this? (Mike Laposata)

I just bought an iPhone and now I can access the website from wherever I am. (Mike Laposata)

In the August Villager you asked for suggestions for a 10th anniversary building.

I'm sure you've seen the new 1/43 models of the Divco milk truck recently revived by American Heritage Models. I just received these first three from Diecast Direct. I understand there will be several more dairies offered in the coming months.

Although it doesn't qualify as a building, I would love to see one of these lettered for Plasticville Dairy.

Maybe it would be more appropriate for sale in the Corner Store.

I can just see one of these Divcos parked in front of some Plasticville houses, in the village of Plasticville, delivering Plasticville Milk, from the Plasticville Dairy. (Jerry Williams)

I am in the process of trimming down all the things that I do. As you may remember, I have been an avid circus modeler for over 20 years. I now not only edit and publish a 32-page quarterly circus newsletter but in 2009 took over as editor of a national carnival historical and modeling magazine which is currently a 24-page bimonth publication. I am now having trouble getting enough time to model with all the paperwork.

I decided to drop everything except the circus and carnival related hobbies and have even sold of most of my non-modeling memorabilia, etc.

While I will retain my collection of plasticville, I just don't have time to continue. Better to try and enjoy one hobby to the fullest rather than have many that you cannot possibly keep up with.

I have really enjoyed the PCA Villager over the years but I now don't even have time to read them properly as they come in.

You are doing a great job and I know how hard it can be to get enough material when you need it.

I wish you and the Plasticville Association all the best in your future endeavors. (Gary Thomson)

(The following comments are related to the 2010 Officer elections. I have purposely omitted the names of the senders. Editor)

John, You pick...Wish I could vote for both. Thankful we have guys to run the Association.(*The sender was referring to the Vice-President candidates. Editor*)

So much for secret ballots... (The sender was referring to the Member number field on the ballots. See the Executive Committee meeting minutes for their decision. Editor)

Welcome New Members

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of January 1, 2010. Their names are now permanently listed in the on line roster.

Jason M White, Portage, IN
Bobby Abrams, Reseda, CA
Donald B Martin, Venice, FL
C A Rench, Glendale, AZ
David L Grubb, Rochester, IL
Michael A Lauria, Jr, Carmel, NY
Louis C McLaughlin II, Flatwoods, KY
Leonard M Johnson, Centennial, CO
Don Davis, Fort Collins, CO
Bruce K Hartman, Phoenixville, PA
Gary R Jones, West Chester, PA
Al Maio, Doylestown, PA
Edward D Schnepel, Lexington, SC
Robert A Plisiewicz, Bridgeport PA

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 April 1, 2010.

Paul E Parizo, Rouses Point, NY
Helen S Atwell, Ozark, AL
Harold Moskowitz, Toledo, OH
Joseph J Koman III, Arlington, VA
Ronald J Cortese, Greenville, SC
Kenneth D German, Baltimore, MD
Nancy J Leonard, Bethel Island, CA
John J Bower, Milton, PA
Peter M Robinson, Lincoln Park, NJ
Bryant Bennett, Palm Bay, FL
Kenneth F Beliveau, East Granby, CT
Ken D Honick, Buena-Vista, PA
Harold D Corbin, Mount Gilead, OH
Joseph Angrisani, Brooklyn, NY

Pen Tips

A PCA pen goes to Glenn Bowman for his tip below:
When removing lamps from the Post Office, Police Station, etc, press on the pins from the back side of the wall with a fingernail to remove the lamps, NEVER pull from the front.
(Do you have a tip that would benefit the members of the PCA? Send your tip to the address on the front page and receive a PCA pen when it is published. Editor)

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 \$1.00 P&H for up to three sheets. Please add 17 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.

NEW ITEM!

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.

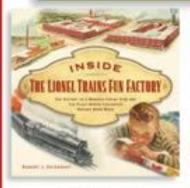
Additional items with the PCA logo

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.

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- RON HOLLANDER, author of All Aboard! The Story of Joshua Lionel Cowen & His Lionel Train Company

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Product Reviews





Lionel Catalog Archive, 1925 – 1942, CD Rom, Hybrid Systems Ltd, Inc., \$50. A digital archive of all primary Lionel consumer catalogs and other paper from 1925 through 1942. Compatible with MS-Windows and Macs.

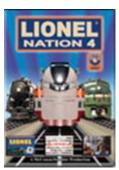
The CD is designed to run automatically when you insert into the CD player. You will be presented with a licensing

agreement page. After clicking YES to accept the licensing agreement you are navigated to a page with a link to frequently asked questions. At the bottom of this page is a link to actually access the program.

The following screen instructs users in how to change the resolution of their screen as well as options to select either small or large images for viewing. I found that the small images were more than adequate but on my nineteen inch LCD monitor.

Upon selecting the small pictures option I was presented a page divided into two frames. The left frame lists the Introduction, Table of Contents, Regular Features and FAQs hyperlinks as well as an Exit button. This is the page you should add as a favorite to eliminate navigating through the licensing agreement and subsequent pages during future uses of the program.

The right hand frame contains five vertical bar type hyperlinks. The first three of these are hyperlinks that navigate one to either the catalogs of 1925 thru 1929, 1930 thru 1939, or 1940 thru 1942. The fourth link carries the title Master Index. Selecting it will navigate



Lionel Nation 4, DVD, 65 minutes, TM Books & Video, \$19.95. This is the fourth edition of TM Books newest Lionel series. It follows the format of the previous editions. There is an introduction that informs the viewer of whose layouts are featured as well as the other features on the disc.

There are, as with Lionel Nation

3, three layouts featured as well as an article on the postwar motorized units, a comparison of the most recent Lionel Daylight engine to the prototype and others.

The first layout "chapter" takes the viewer to Seattle, Washington to view Bill Spaulding's Hi-Rail 32 X 13 layout. Bill is a Northern Pacific fan and has repainted a set of Lionel 2343 engines for that road name.

The next "chapter" is an article on the postwar motorized units such as the #50 gang car and the track inspection car.

one to a scrollable front cover view of every catalog and flyer contained on the CD. The fifth link is for viewing the "bonus" items on the CD which includes mailing envelopes and price lists. The bonus section also includes the 1944 *Lionel Railroad Planning* book as well as the 1945 *Plans and Blue Prints for Lionel Model Railroaders* booklet. All pages of these booklets are included on the CD.

Clicking on any catalog cover in the master index option or any of the other option again displays the catalog cover along with a panel to the right with numerous options which include "paging" through the currently displayed catalog.

The "Regular Features" link on the Home page is quite interesting. From this link you can toggle through various subjects such as front covers, inside covers, O or O-27 train sets or engines, operating rolling stock and others.

Searching for a specific item number is unique. The search must be accomplished using the search function of your browser while viewing the Table of Contents page.

This catalog archive CD follows the same format as its' postwar and modern predecessors. As we are aware some of the catalogs of this vintage are difficult to obtain and can be quite pricey. This CD is definitely a worthwhile investment if you wish to study these catalogs without purchasing a comprehensive collection.

The Lionel Catalog Archive, 1925 – 1942, CD ROM sells for \$50 plus \$5 shipping. It can be purchased directly from Hybrid Systems Ltd, Inc., 200 University Park Drive, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025. Their toll free number is 800 799-2802.

Chapter three will be of interest to those who collect the 60's military and space items. It is a visit to the 17 X 19 layout of Jeff Marchant. Jeff enjoys the military and space items and has not only based his layout on those pieces by including a military base but also a few aliens for good measure.

There is a brief chapter comparing the most recent Lionel Daylight engine to the prototype. This chapter includes some operating footage of the prototype.

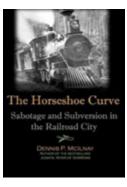
The last layout visited is that of David Dansky. His name may be familiar to some as he is the owner of Toy Train Heaven. His 24 X 16 layout is part of his 33 X 30 train room. The layout could be called eclectic as it includes, standard gauge, O, double O, T-Rail, and 2-7/8 track.

Norm Charbonneau is featured in a short chapter on weathering. Norm's layout was featured in Lionel Nation 2. We now know how he manages to make the equipment on his very Hi-Rail layout look so realistic.

The last chapter asks the question, and answers it, "How do I make the model look more like the prototype

for the specific road name?" The chapter shows how to add grab irons, warning beacons, and mars lights. It also shows how to correctly place such details such as horns and bells as well painting railings and adding additional details using decals.

The layouts on this version of Lionel Nation are quite impressive. I also like the fact that this edition again has



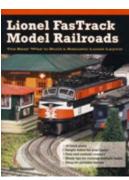
The Horseshoe Curve, Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City, Dennis P McIlnay, published by Seven Oaks Press, 455 pages, hardback, 6 X 9 format. \$29.95

Just the title of this book was enough to pique my interest and after reading the promotional literature regarding it I knew I had to obtain a copy. I am glad that I did.

The title would make one tend to believe that this is a suspense novel. It is, in fact, a three part historical perspective on two little-known activities during the Second World War as well as the third being dedicated to the founding of the Pennsylvania Railroad. It also contains appendices, notes, a bibliography, an index, and a listing of photo and illustration credits. A portion of the appendices are photos and illustrations including the front pages of the *Altoona Mirror* showing photos of the saboteurs.

The first part details the introduction of German saboteurs into the United States. This was a plot by Hitler's Germany to destroy various infrastructure facilities that would hinder the war effort. This plot included destroying the Pennsylvania Railroad's Horseshoe Curve due to its strategic importance to rail transportation not only on the East Coast but nationwide. Included in this part are four pages of photos.

The second part details raids on the homes of Altoona residents that were considered "enemy aliens". The raids



Lionel FasTrack Model Railroads, (The Easy Way to Build a Realistic Lionel Layout), Robert Schleicher, published by Voyageur Press, \$29.99 US, \$37.50 Canada, 160 pages, 8 1/4 X 10 3/4, perfect bound.

As the title indicates this is a book dedicated to building model railroad layouts using Lionel's FasTrack. The first

chapter extols the virtue of using FasTrack over other types. The second chapter delves into the wiring aspects of a layout as well as the TrainMaster Command Control some tips and tricks that seemed to be shortchanged on Nations 2 & 3.

Lionel Nation 4 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.

were conducted by members of the FBI's Alien Enemy Control Unit. These raids targeted people of both German and Italian descent. This part also details what could be considered a total disregard for the rights of those raided. In many cases the raids culminated with the enemy aliens being sent to internment camps similar to those used to house many of Japanese descent during the war without very much of a trial.

The third part is what could be considered a treatise on the founding of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the construction of the Horseshoe Curve. It was interesting to read of the manipulation of various individuals who were instrumental in founding the Railroad. The author also does an excellent job of describing the Horseshoe Curve. That was appreciated by me as I have yet to visit the site.

The author states in the preface that the book is meant for the general reader and not a railroad historian. I would agree with that comment to a degree. He has included more small details into this book than one would expect. The first part, especially, is so finitely detailed that one could probably create a timeline of all the activities of the saboteurs.

I found this book easy to read and would recommend it to anyone interested in the German plot to sabotage US infrastructure, a view of Herbert Hoover's manipulation of the Enemy Alien Act, or the founding of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Horseshoe Curve, Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City can be purchased from, Seven Oaks Press, 826 Walnut Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Their phone number is (866) 695-5960 or (814) 695-5960. It may be purchased on line at http://sevenoakspress.com.

and the Legacy Control systems. Layout tables are discussed in chapter three followed by bridges, mountains, valleys, streams, and lakes in chapters four and five.

There are a total of twelve layouts illustrated in this book. The first is illustrated in chapter six and is a very small 6 X 6 feet in design. The emphasis on this layout is not so much the operation of trains but the super detailing of the city – the subject of this chapter.

A 14 X 22 modular layout is illustrated in chapter seven. This chapter does a very good job of describing these types of layouts including certain specifications that must be met in order for one modular section to be compatible with another.

Chapters eight through seventeen illustrate and discuss FasTrack layouts of increasing size from a 5 X 9 all the way up to an 11 X 30 layout. Nearly every one of the layouts has a track diagram and a bill of material for those who may want to reproduce them.

A nice addition to the book is a list of twenty hobby manufacturers as an appendix. It precedes a two page index. The book is written in a very light manner which made for easy reading. If you are a Lionel FasTrack user or are interested in seeing color photos of FasTrack layouts I recommend this book.

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

For Sale

0400 Mobile home, cream/blue mint \$25. 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. facltf@juno.com #02-87, Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 (Feb 10)

I have a large assortment of Plasticville parts for sale. All parts are original vintage Plasticville. All parts are 50 to 75 cents per side, roof, or wall. Email me your want list and I will email back with items in stock. Some hard to find parts too. starredm@gmail.com. #09-580 David M Starre, 5105 Herman Ave, Cleveland OH 44102 (Feb 10)

My childhood early 50's Plasticville. No boxes. Two story, on story, and ranch homes. Fire, police, and railroad station. Diner, gas station, hardware store. Supermarket, corner store, school, church. Assorted accessories. Best offer for entire lot. #09-602, almjbecker@mchsi.com Allan Becker, 1253 N Wayhi Cir., East Peoria, Il 61611 Phone (309) 698-2845 (Aug 10)

For Trade

I will trade some Plasticville parts of your choosing for original Union Station roofs to complete my model.

issue in which your ad will appear.

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.

FOR SALE. Large assortment of HO Plasticville. Cathedral, School, Police Station, Colonial house, Esso station, Motel with mesh drive through and connecting office. Many 'unique' other pieces. All in very good condition. Some pieces have replacement or repro parts to make complete. All glued. Perfect for a 'layout'. All buildings \$5 or less. (Several N scale pieces too, but look good with HO.) steedg@windstream.net 01-55 Jim Steed. 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, Ga. 30512. 706 745 0629. Nov 10)

HO kit no. 271 on bottom. Very rare, one of a kind "contemporary" two story, Calif. style, swim. pool, garage, two wings of home at 30 degree angle. Looks like a Hollywood star's home. Perfect for hilltop/cliff setting. Many colors, complete, glued. (Also good for O gauge "forced perspective".) Very unique piece, indeed. \$15. steedg@windstream.net 01-55 Jim Steed. 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, Ga. 30512. 706 745 0629. Nov 10)

starredm@gmail.com. #09-580 David M Starre, 5105 Herman Ave, Cleveland OH 44102 (Feb 10)

Wanted

Wanted: glued structures. I plan on building a permanent display so any "O" or "O27" plastic kits or built-ups or otherwise "value added" will be OK. I plan to paint them, etc. anyway. Thanks. Oh – partial or "parts" buildings, etc. also suitable. William.gruendler@gmail.com. 08-540, William "Paul" Gruendler, PO Box 60997, Palm Bay, FL 32906 (Feb 10)

Box for SC-4 School House Box. Have the school house need a good empty box. william.r.samsell@jci.com #04-317, William R Samsell, 19 Harmony Dr, Falling Waters, WV 25419. (Feb 10)

WANTED! PLASTICVILLE 'LITTLE GIRL'. Molded in colors other than the common flesh color. WILL trade! ashemorse@comcast.net #01-21 Johathan Morse, 49 Agawam Dr, E Wareham, MA 02538. Phone 508 291 2653 Monday – Friday; 9 am-12pm, anytime weekends (Feb 10)

Wanted: An excellent condition copy of Bachmann's 2005 catalog. One "Butcher" for the Storytown "Three Men in a Tub" kit. #99-01 Joe Kutza at webmaster@plasticvilleusa.org (Feb 10)

6-1/2" Galoob 2-story dollhouse plus attic w/turret, approx 1/50. Victorian. Mainly white + pastels (except roofs). Wallpaper on exterior walls. "Lewis Galoob Toys" 1990 on bottom. Excellent condition not necessary. Will pay more extra for 3 X 3" garage, bathroom and kitchen fixtures. Describe porch rails and removable floorboards, colors. #06-409 Robert.J.Heine@irs.gov Robert Heine, 1718 P St NW, #301, Washington, DC 20036 (Feb 10)

Small marbled parts for Hobo Shacks. Porch roof and porch floor for red w/dark grey roof LH4 2-story Colonial house. K-Line buildings that were packed in train sets. Figures and accessories for K-Lineville buildings. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (May 10)

Littletown passenger station parts; red or yellow chimney. Red left hand door and white base. Also built-up toy garage; yellow walls, red roof, blue doors (manufacturer unknown from the 50's. 01-56, Joseph Mace, 10083 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090-9224 (May 10)

HO parts; walls, doors, windows, roofs, chimneys and other small pieces. #02-117, Robert W Johnson, 419 US Hwy One, Apt 101E, North Palm Beach, FL 561 845-2484. (May 10)

Looking for crisp clear high quality photocopy of nursery rhyme for Goosey Gander Castle and Old Lady in a Shoe. Also can anyone supply the measurement of an original rhyme sheet. PDF file of the above copies is acceptable. #02-121, David Allen, 318 Wheatsheaf Dr, New Castle. DE 19720 (May 10)

Small marbled parts for Hobo Shacks. Porch roof and porch floor for red w/dark grey roof LH4 2-story Colonial house. White front porch floor with both pins for 1701 1-1/2 Story Rancher. K-Line buildings that were packed in train sets. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (May 10)

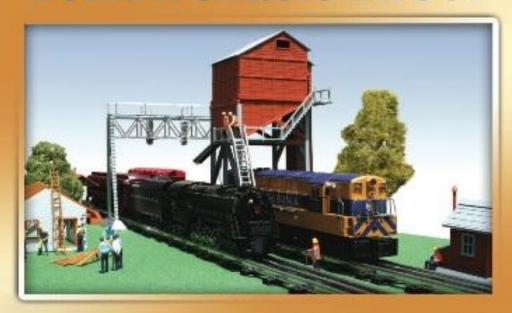
Wanted: Set of Pine Trees, box not required. Wanted for "O" gauge layout. Good to very good condition desired. steedg@windstream.net 01-55 Jim Steed. 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, Ga. 30512. 706 745 0629. Nov 10)

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