

FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING



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Nearly every building in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" would have had the Potter name on it had it not been for George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) coming to the rescue. Well if you are really into Plasticville nearly all of your commercial buildings have the name Plasticville on them. On my home layout, most of those buildings still do. It really doesn't work that well on my traveling layout. It worked for me, but not necessarily for the public. So I went the route of the today's sports facilities and the practice of naming rights for many of my commercial structures.



It is relatively easy to make various signs for PV on your home computer. Covering up PV on the diner took a little extra effort. Simply adding silhouettes, a touch of paint, roof vents and a billboard to your diners will enhance the look of the building. Wonder woman is taking off from the True Value Hardware and Pharmacy. Modified PV figures are shopping. I remove all bases from figure for appearance reasons. Every once and a while you can pick up a trashed PV five and dime store or a hardware/pharmacy. Regardless of the condition, even if trashed, there are two pieces that I feel are of particular value, the DOORS. I have used those doors on many of my buildings. They are great for scratch builds. It seems like people are always looking for the clear double doors used on the bank, post office, super market, and the TV station. Unless you add something to the inside of the door it just looks like a big hole in the wall.



On the supermarket and some other structures I have put clear plastic in front of the window inserts giving them more of a glass window look. Another method for this is putting clear packag-



ing tape over the inserts. You might not want to do this to original inserts, but many of mine are reproductions. I used the hardware/pharmacy door on the front of the Piggy Wiggy supermarket. (OK I misspelled Piggly Wiggly.) By taking the left side of the supermarket window insert, reversing the image, trimming it and placing it on the inside of the door I think that it makes the market inside look bigger and better. The Plasticville lettering was removed from the tower portion. One other reason for new signage on some buildings is that in many cases the lettering is chipped or nicked up. The filling station was a total basket case and required repairs and a repaint. Goodluck Auto Repair seemed like more



than appropriate name.

Actually if you take a post office, five and ten, hardware/pharmacy and supermarket, eliminate the sides, trim the roofs and then glue them together you have a version of today's strip malls. On my traveling layout I wanted a little more depth perception, thus a two story Woolworths was constructed. If I should ever put this on my home layout it will require a fire escape for the second floor. Again using a damaged PV structures I modified the top front edges and used damage sides for the upper floor gluing them together and adding styrene strips to hide the glue joints. Amid the modified PV population is a one of a kind Forrest Gump waiting at the bus stop.

The bank was in reasonably good condition only needing minor repair. I used broken pieces of (cracked ice) lighting panel material as window inserts reversing them with the smooth side out.

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This camouflages the open barnlike appearance of the interior of the bank. This is also one of the structures that I like the clear PV double door on, as long as it isn't clear. I used a small mirror like material on the inside. Spiderman is the protector and bank

guard while Marilyn Monroe is being ogled by some local businessmen. The banks name (not Plasticville) has drawn some attention.



To the right is the Forty Winks Motel Chain. I originally made only the pink version. It had to be removed from the home layout, packed up for transport and setup on

the traveling layout, then removed, repacked, unpacked and replaced on my home layout. The better solution was to make another one. I detest scratch building stairs so I used the staircase for a couple PV switch towers. Styrene strips were used to level the second floors and hide the gap created in the leveling process. Catwoman is on a roof and Michael Jackson is also making an appearance.

