

JUST SO YOU KNOW! OCTOBER 8, 2024

IDEAS, HINTS, AND OPINIONS

. . . **Corrections!!!** None reported from previous issue. Does that mean no mistakes, or no readers?



• "Connecting collectors to clubs, and clubs to each other for over 30 years." Find information about the *National Council of 56 Clubs* at: <http://www.ncc56.com/>. The site includes contact information for possible clubs in your area. – Linda and I are members of an NCC club; the *Village North Collectors Club*. •

. . . *'The Village Collector'* has been with us since 2017. Bill and Kathy Channell have continually worked to build and improve the web site. Remember you can find the following columns: David Spears, *'Just so you know!'* • Jim Peters, *'Show your village to the World'* • Peppe Apuleo, *'From Italy, Villaging in Europe'* • Art Treadwell, *'Hauntsville 2023,' 'A Dickens' Christmas'* and *'Christmas in the Game Preserve.'* • Be on the lookout for a new column, *'Village Trains.'*



. . . *Jim Shore* signing event, Saturday, October 21, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. at *Cynthia's Hallmark* (Nat'l Council of Clubs Associate Member), Greenfield, IN.



• *Happy Birthday Bernice!* October 15 •



• National Council of 56 Clubs Region VI: *Northern Lights Collectors Club*, Twin Cities, MN, Tom Iacoviello, tiacoviello@yahoo.com • *Village North Collectors Club*, Duluth MN/Superior, WI, David Spears, spears.duluth@juno.com • Region VI Representative: Debbie Oehme, region6ncc@ncc56.com •

. . . The next *'Ms. Lit Town Facebook Live'* will be Thursday, November 7, 4 p.m. CST.

. . . Visitors, new to our home, were looking at our home computer. Off to one side, near the keyboard, was our *'Homie'* version of *'4 of the Village People'* plus three 2 ½ inch *'Barbie's.'* Probably not usual desk material for someone like me. Not sure if they know we do Christmas displays; and it is only October. They didn't ask any questions; I wonder what they thought. Note: The *Barbie's* were now \$1.25 each at *Dollar Tree*.

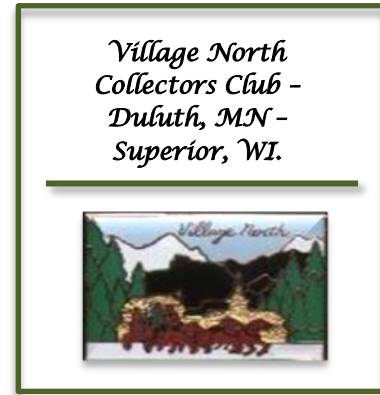
. . . The *National Council of 56 Clubs* is planning a **Virtual Gathering** for 2024. Per NCC President Brandon Taylor, "We are having one in the fall. There is no information at this time. We are working on it as we speak." • Linda and I might have 'virtual' capability by then (and understand how to use it).

• Abbreviations I frequently use: NCC – National Council of 56 Clubs • JSYK – Just so you know! • TVC – The Village Collector • VDL – Village D-Lights • D56 – Department 56 • VN or VNCC – Village North Collectors Club • AV – Alpine Village • CIC – Christmas In The City • DV - Dickens' Village • NEV – New England •

. . . Village D-Lights update - No new information available. We received the most the recent *VDL* issue, *'2023 Qtr. 4,'* on March 12th 2024. Note: Our subscription is still good/paid.

. . . From Sandy; "Thanks David. I do like that black building. I have some David Winter buildings that are definitely good candidates for Halloween. They are much heavier than porcelain however!" • Her response to the *David Winter* building in the most recent *JSYK!*

. . . Don't forget the Dept. 56 **Memphis Gathering** being planned for 2026. Sure hope I'm *not too old* to attend. I've really only driven through the area in the past; and we look forward to seeing the many friends we've met at previous gatherings. I've seen no new info; *JSYK!*



. . . The note from Bernice said, "Don't you just hate it at events when they play the music so loud that conversation is almost impossible? That, and center pieces on tables that block the view of the person sitting across from you at events . . . also so annoying." • We recently had the same situation; no music, simply many people talking, loud! And, we did have to move the centerpiece. Amazing how many events do that.

. . . When you spot 'village stuff' while out seasonal shopping, please let me know. I can't get to every store; as a matter of fact, in Duluth we don't have 'every store.' Remember, the more you tell me, the smarter I am.

- Hot Wire Foam Factory - 'Hand Tool Stand!' It's a 4-slot tool stand designed to store *Hot Wire* tools in a safe and convenient location. It should make storing and using the tools easier. \$19.95
<https://hotwirefoamfactory.com/045ToolStand.html>
 Note: We have each of the shown tools, *JSYK!*



. . . "Elvis is dead 42 yrs. He'd be 84 today." • Kay Simmonns on Facebook.

. . . "The Last Car That Parked Here Is Still Missing" • The best *no parking* sign I have ever seen.



- Animated "Black Bart Knife Thrower," Dept. 56 Halloween Village, Introduced 2014. Retired 2015. Size: 5.31 x 3.74 x 3.94". • What do you think, will this 'fit' our 'normal' carnival midway?

- "I thought growing old would take longer." - Favorites catalog
- "Books - The original hand-held device." - Favorites catalog

. . . I did a 'Village Zigsaw,' 'Scene from a Dickens village' by David Spears, Minnesota, USA - 24 pieces (6 x4) it took me 3.04 minutes. www.thevillagecollector.com then 'Village Zigsaw.'

. . . <https://www.treefrogtreasures.com/> • You probably noticed by now, I frequently find stuff I like on this web site. They mostly sell small people (at lot are military). Many would be fun and usable in our displays (so far regularly as parade participants and at memorial type events).

. . . *Calendars!* We found our first 2025 calendar with pictures usable as display backgrounds: pushing an old car out of a snow filled ditch; snowmobilers stopped for lunch and a brew; snow falling, autos and people on a downtown street. Take a look around, now is the time for this source. • Our calendar came from *Arrowhead Auto Body* - don't ask ☺.

- 2025 is the **35th anniversary** of the Department 56 *North Pole Village*.

- Oct. 10, our car in the garage first time since spring. Linda worked hard to make room. - No snow on the ground, JSYK!

- I do sometimes order thick crust pizza with double cheese; however I don't wear, or even own, a 'Toque Blanche,' (white hat). No big mustache either - I do wish I had that big grin. • This picture was on a message from Bill and Kathy Channel saying, "Hope you're back to feeling well. Just to make sure, Dr. TVC is sending along the perfect cure. Take two of the attached (pizzas) and you'll feel better in the morning."



... Lowe's Christmas for 2025 - There was 'Carole Towne' items plus some 'usual' Lemax boxes. Most of the Carole Towne is carnival (not my style of carnival). I saw this on *Lemax Addicts Facebook* posting on September 14 by Shelly Ferguson Lindegren. • We have no local Lowe's.



- "Ready for Halloween - James Gravely is ready to greet trick or treaters with his special pizza. He does not seem to be worried; after all he has a pair of enchanted gargoyles to protect his property." - Larry Treadwell's Hauntsville 2023 • Look close and see a 'special pizza' in Mr. Gravely's left hand.

... We went to Linda's 60th class reunion. After all the yearbook reviews (hers and mine), I was reminded: *sign your full name* in yearbooks (and on gathering programs). Years later you may not remember which 'Bob' or 'Judy' wrote a note to you.

... "I never panic when I get lost. I just change where it is I want to go!" • Maxine's Place



- 'Make & Take Scarecrow Shack.' Not a Halloween person; but for some reason I really like this piece. Introduced October 2023. 7.36 in H x 6.3 in W x 9.65 in L. \$170.00. Dept. 56, *Snow Village Halloween*. They mention something about ". . . the warm mulled cider and gooey caramel apples made fresh on the farm!" I do like caramel apples. • Now what do we do? - Happy Halloween!!

... **0562095** - Have you noticed numbers with a connection to your life appear all the time. In this case '56.' It's the ID number on my 'Handicap Parking' tag • Question: Are they trying to tell me something? It is my permanent parking authorization with an expiration date of 2030.



- Just spotted this piece (for the first time). We have mines on the 'Iron Range' of northern Minnesota; I've never seen anything like this there. I enjoy the multiple shapes, the colors and the functional look. I'll bet I can even find some 'miner' accessories. Lemax, Harvest Crossing 'Lucky No 7 Mine.' 2001, 2004 retired.

... The Kurt Adler 'Coca-Cola Hollywood Nutcracker with Polar Bear Hat' – I like Coca Cola stuff, and Nutcrackers, but apparently not together; too commercial for me. And, he is really tall, 15 inches (and expensive) \$111.99 on sale at *House of Holiday*. Over 200 other Nutcracker choices available. <https://houseofholiday.com/>

... Dept. 56, CIC 'Ballpark Bleachers' being used as a 'watching location' for a parade on the street. In this case a very, very busy **moving** parade with a large crowd of spectators. 'The Parade 2020,' 'Show your village to the world' by Jim Peters. See the wonderful parade at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7usT4uZdDk>

... "You can't keep trouble from visiting, but you don't have to give it a chair." • Cowboy saying



- 'Miniatures & Mini things' • Facebook, Sept 8, 2024, Amanda Ollerenshaw - many more images accompanied this post on Facebook. She made most all of the many miniatures you will see inside. She even refinished the table herself – all great work!

... "To understand the world better: Read" • "To understand yourself: Write." • [Asad inspiring](#)

... How to write good – "Prepositions are not words to end sentences with."

... Department 56 Retirement Day – Friday, November 1, 2024 ...

... Mills Fleet Farm – Lemax Spooky Town – My first 'in person' 2024 impression – Having seen many of the houses on line, I didn't realize, 'til now, they had shrunk. The 2024 houses, figures and accessories are all smaller (some in size, some in scale). Lemax also have a selection of actually much smaller houses. • We were in the store in Hermantown, MN on September 8. It seems to me the 25 foot shelves for the Lemax display is the same length as past years. Linda drew my attention to the *Spooky Town Gingerbread House*. She didn't think it was 'right' for Halloween. • In another part of the store they had a nice selection of different sized *Halloween Gnomes* (in bright colors). None where anywhere near village size ☹️



- 'Calming The Bees' Dept. 56 Snow Village, \$42.00. The safely dressed beekeeper uses a smoker to calm the bees while he harvests the honeycombs. Intro. Oct. 2021, retired Nov. 2022. 3.23 in H x 2.32 in W x 3.66 in L.
- Right - A very nice display by Rob-Amy Eves on the Nat'l Council of 56 Clubs Facebook, Aug 16, 2024 showed this piece.



- Left - 'The (Oriental) Wine Waiter.'
- Right - 'French Waiter with Vichy Water' and 'French Waiter Pouring Coffee' Note: Yes, I had to look up Vichy Water.

Interesting: Waiters serving wine, water and coffee; no beer or 'alcohol.'

<https://www.kingandcou>



- We are always looking for more 'stalls' for our parks, carnivals and city streets; these two would be something different and nice. Above left - This 'Street Food Hawker Stall' offers "a range of freshly-made steamed vermicelli roll with all kinds of condiments to suit her customers' tastes and pockets." \$125.00
- Above right - 'The Street Toy Seller' is attracting the attention of a boy trying to get away from his AMAH 'faithful servant.' Another boy is up close looking at all the toys. Display is different and very colorful. \$259.00.
- 'King & Country' is one of the world's major designers and producers of all-metal, hand-painted 1:30 scale military and civilian miniatures. Yes, I think they are expensive.

- Lemax 'Skeleton Garden Gnomes,' set of 3. \$7.49. I don't need; I don't want them. If Linda doesn't enjoy my friendly Gnomes; image how she would feel about this trio.



. . . If you got this far I can guess you at least looked at most of the pages. If you read anything you liked or disliked, you must let me know. I need responses to pay me for all the work I do. How did that sound, sincere or ☺ ?

. . . Tom Bates, Dept. 56 artist, has designed a fresh, fun *new village lamp post*. The new post lights each come with a male USB tail and a female port, enabling you to 'daisy chain' 3, 5, 10, even 20 lights together on one power supply. I look forward to seeing what they look like when introduced in 2025.



• This was my entry in the 2011 Village North Halloween Display Contest. All dressed as 'kids' when walking into the 'Costume Shop;' the children are all **in costume** coming out. The trees are by Linda; most people, and building, from Lemax. I don't remember if we won.

. . . 'A Peek Inside' - On Sept. 17 Tim Haney, VP of Product Development @ Enesco/Dept. 56, made an interesting announcement; D56 Villages will *move to **USB power** beginning in 2025*. It means no batteries or adapters and power supplies are gone. Now we will have simple cords allowing us to use a standard electrical outlet or a USB port. USB power can save up to 75% over standard cords. The USB cord also provides a dimmable option. For further info (and clarification), read 'A Peek Inside' on www.department56.com • Mr. Haney did note traditional cords will continue to be available through *Replacement Parts, JSYK!*

. . . Ed Bazinet, Nielan & Barbara Lund, Ms. Lit Town, and Rick Jackson; now add **Richard Puckett**. Dept. 56 will create a piece in his **honor** (a building and an accessory). Reading the intro on 'A Peek Inside,' I was reminded of all the good things Richard does for collectors and Dept. 56. Remember you can always find him on his *TheVillageChronicler.com* web site.

. . . 'October is National Pizza Month' — an entire month dedicated to pizza! But let's be honest, I celebrate pizza all year round!



• 'Mr. Chuckster,' \$45.00. King & Country. Another of those 'cool dudes' I'd like to see walking down the street in our Dickens' Village.

• 'Egyptian Camel Corps;' I'm thinking 'they' would be a different *add* to our parade. Quite sure few of our friends would have a like piece at their house. Price: \$35.00. 3¾ inches tall. Painted metal, gloss finish. www.treefrogtreasures.com



Faded



Colorful and bright

. . . These are my pictures of the front and back of the same package. An example of what happens when a Dept. 56 container is stored in direct sunlight. There were many others 'faded' like this in this home. The other D56 boxes, stored behind closed doors, all looked colorful and bright.

. . . . The fiber optic 'Full Moon Backdrop' was one of the best sellers for Dept. 56 in 2024. Introduced in October 2023, it included the four colors below. For 2025 one 'moon' for Christmas and one for Halloween have been added – both inspired by the Northern Lights we enjoy here in Minnesota. Size: 9.75 in H x 2.75 in W x 9.75 in L. Cost \$87.50.



. . . Lemax 2024; we both thought it was a butcher chasing a dog 'thief.' When it came home with us, I read the label, 'Feline Fish Thief.' We still think the animal looks like a dog, but we do agree it's a fish in the 'animal's' mouth. We found the accessory at Michael's (happy to see the store open again after a long time shut down to repair serious snow damage).

. . . I was happy to see the 2024 brochures for Lemax Christmas village available at Michaels. The usual colorful ten pages showing all the houses, table accents, figurines, trees and specialty pieces. The costs are not included and, in my opinion, the print size is smaller. The store does have a reasonable Lemax stock available. • A big selection of grass, moss, etc. was also spotted (for making display backgrounds and bases).

. . . 'Hauntsville' by Larry Treadwell – every year it is a big favorite of mine. I hope to see it very soon. Remember he does two parts; pictures and words. www.thevillagecollector.com

. . . 'Krypto The Superdog,' member of the 'League of the Superpets.' Off white dog, red cape, sort of jumping, pleasant look on his face. Probably a companion for Superman (although Krypto might look out of place on the roof of a skyscraper). A Mattel gift from the Dollar Store via Linda.

. . . 'Boys vs Girls,' a lighted, animated, Table Accent, by Coventry Cove. It's a Tug of War; Two boys and two girls on opposite ends of a rope. The snowman judge decides who pulls who past the center line. Lemax, 2007. Note: the animation is back and forth.

. . . "Mamie Eisenhower was the first wife of any president to decorate the White House for Halloween." I read it in 'The Village Reporter,' The Garden State Village Collectors Club Newsletter, October 2024. And then I heard it October 3 on Dept. 56 Facebook Live with Ms. Lit Town, so it must be true.

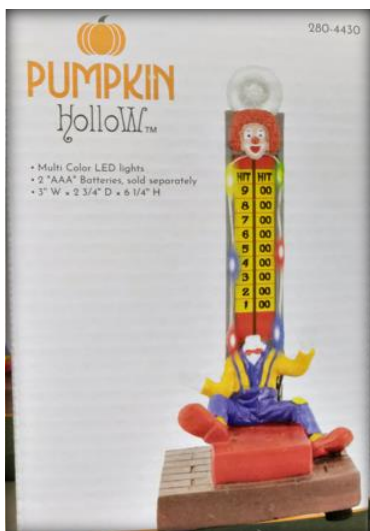
. . . 'Connection At Sea' 2025 • September 15-19, 2025. This sailing consists of one day at sea and two port days. Contact Nathalie Liu at Nathalie@tripmatters.net or (949) 386-8325. Sponsored by The California 56 Collectors, with the National Council of 56 Clubs, aboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's Navigator of the Seas! – The **cut-off date** to register for the Connection at Sea cruise is October 31st 2024.

. . . Toot & Puddle, 'I'll Be Home For Christmas' by Hollie Hobbie, Linda found it at Savers. The book has as an official Department 56 tag on the back, 56.30764, \$15.95 • I'm sure there is an explanation for this; anyone know what it is?

. . . "You will soon bring joy to someone new in your life" • Fortune cookie

. . . The Dept. 56 Original Snow Village Halloween Series **2024 Retirement List** – 'Esmeralda's Shoe Shop,' 'Trixie's Tricks & Treats,' 'Scary Skelton Stories,' 'The Kraken House,' 'X Marks The Spot,' 'Haunted Mansion,*' and 'Gather 'Round For Thanksgiving.*' • Melinda Seegers detailed this on Oct 3 'Ms. Lit Town Live' on Facebook. *First Edition only pieces are retiring (560 each).

. . . The Dept. 56 'Village Estate Sale Auction' appears on the Dept. 56 web site. Each of the bundles includes multiple items they call "hidden gems in our archives." Bidding is open for one week. Each time there are new 'bundles' to be bid on. <https://department56.com/> Not inexpensive, but I was truly interested in a recent Alpine bundle. Remember to look for the 'Bid Now' spot on Estate Sale screen.



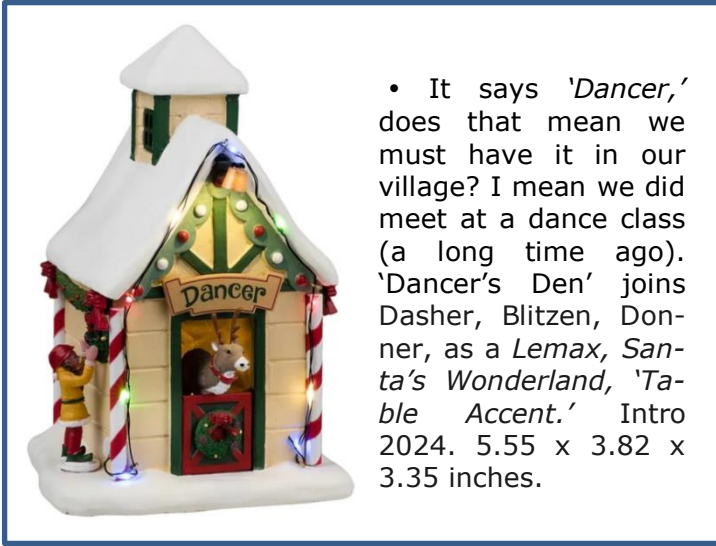
• 'The Bell Ringer,' Menard's 'FG Square' 'Pumpkin Hollow,' a very colorful, 'headless' clown. We do have many clowns in our collection, but not without a head. 3" W x 2 2/3" D x 6 1/4 H." None out of their packaging. We will return to see this one 'in person.' • They do have a few other Halloween 'village' items; maybe the clown house might be of interest.

• Walmart, Holiday Time, 'Dog Letter To Santa.' \$3.97. Not fancy, but both the little girl and dog are cute. For the cost, this would make a nice addition to any street scene (CIC or NEV).



. . . Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3rd at 2:00 AM, when clocks will be set back one hour.

. . . "Lake Superior contains ten percent of all the fresh water on the planet Earth." • via Destination Duluth



- It says 'Dancer,' does that mean we must have it in our village? I mean we did meet at a dance class (a long time ago). 'Dancer's Den' joins Dasher, Blitzen, Donner, as a Lemax, Santa's Wonderland, 'Table Accent.' Intro 2024. 5.55 x 3.82 x 3.35 inches.



- He is on the way to Split Rock Lighthouse. Replacing glass is one of the lighthouse keepers 'Odd Jobs Before The Snow.' He is to keep the beacon in top working condition. Dept. 56 Snow Village, introduced October 2022, retired November 2023. 3.35 in H x 1.69 in W x 1.65 in L. \$32.50.

. . . In his most recent Presidents article in the NCC *Club Connection*, Brandon Taylor announced ten winners of 'door prizes.' These are in recognition of nearing 100% club membership dues being paid. One club from each region was drawn; our *Village North Collectors Club* was the winner from Region VI. Thanks, in advance, for the prize.

. . . "Global Christmas Village Day" This year, 2024, will be the 6th Annual Celebration of all aspects of "Christmas Villages". Saturday, November 9, 2024. Check it out at: www.thevillagecollector.com

. . . Ms. Lit Town talked about, and showed, some new Dept. 56 village packaging. Take a look on the October 3 'Dept. 56 Facebook Live' to see the change for 'special' village items. ?????



Questions, comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. You can contact David and Linda at: spears.duluth@juno.com, 105 E. Toledo St., Duluth, MN 55811 or (218) 724-6148.

- 3,696 is the number of words in this JSYK – not counting this line •

• Comments •