

JUST SO YOU KNOW! MAY 9, 2022

IDEAS, HINTS, AND OPINIONS

BY DAVID SPEARS

. . . Remember there is no planned 'location,' or 'order,' for content in my columns. In other words, I have no idea what I'm doing.

. . . Abbreviations (**I 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 – See more abbreviations on last page.

. . . The 'Coach is Here,' by Bill Channell takes us '*through the seasons in New Hampshire*.' • Jim Peter's 'Show Your Village To The World,' new column is titled '*Most Watched Village Videos by Views*.' • Brian Vaill's, 'The Train Station,' O gauge.' • Thea Heyink with newest, 'Village Photos' • Phil & sent column: 2202 Lemax, their '*know!*' columns are also on the site. <http://thevillagecollector.com/>.



. . . 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, Adelaide Cline, amcline@chartermi.net • City Lights, Mankato, MN, Mary Zellmer, mzellmer@hickorytech.net • D56 Builders and Treasurers, Janesville, Beloit WI/Rockford, IL, Charlene Swansboro. • Region VI Representative: Debbie Oehme, region6ncc@ncc56.com.

. . . A new home for **guest columns** - 'Village Collectors' Café' has become a location for guest writers on <http://thevillagecollector.com/>. Guest Writer #1: Greg Cassidy, Maryland, USA; 'Thoughts on Villaging and Model Railroads.' • Bill is looking for additional contributors.

. . . "When I say "The Other Day" I could be referring to anytime between yesterday and 15 years ago." • On-line

. . . Esme told me, ". . . of course 'trees' are the most important and favorite accessory. Heck, I even entered the Silver Anniversary contest, dressed as one of two palm trees. Miss Lit Town's motorcycle group won." Esme repeated, "You can't have too many trees."



. . . D56 Club Monthly **Zoom Meeting**, May 14th, 2 p.m. ET us02web.zoom.us/j/89877085939?pwd=bIVRNW94RXozSEFvd2hVekYrN3pnZz09 The Zoom Meetings are all open to the public, however to be eligible to win our door prize(s), you must be a member. Come and join the fun at our next Zoom Meeting.

. . . The phone rang at our house; when I answered, the phone said: "*There is one available to take your call at the moment – goodbye!*"

. . . Bears in neighborhood; that means I put our birdfeeders in the garage every evening. That will be necessary 'til the bears hibernate in the fall. - Of course I take them back out every morning.

. . . A **model train display** is featured in an "Enbrel" TV ad. Have you seen it? Note: It can't be too effective; I don't know what the product does.

. . . Village D-Lights, Qtr. 1, 2022 was received at our home on April 21, 2022 – just so you know! - Yes, it was **Quarter 1**. Now I wonder about the mailing date for Quarter 2.

. . . 49 of 63 clubs have **paid** their National Council of 56 Clubs dues for 2022. Congrats to all responsible; from the National leadership to the individual club members.

. . . The 'Dept. 56 Club' has their first ad in Village D-Lights. It appeared in VDL, Qtr. 1, 2022.

. . . I had not heard this term 'til the past couple months: '**Unicorn piece**.' I now know the definition: '*Particular piece you most want; but elusive or not available at a price you can afford*.' I must live a sheltered life.



- Because I appreciate the look of the 'inside' stairway. That's the reason the 'Rooster Inn' is here. The way they lit the stairway - **wow!** Dept. 56 says "Travelers stop at the "Rooster Inn" for a pint of ale and a bowl of soup. . . . (they) can rent a room above the Inn." Introduced January 2022, 8.03 in H x 4.06 in W x 5.75 in L.



- I didn't realize **Charlie Browns' dad** was a barber. Now I find he owned and operated a small business. The Dept. 56, *Peanuts Village*, "Pinecrest Barber Shop" is it. Introduced January 2022. 7.44 in H x 5.12 in W x 5.12 in L • Did you know that Charles Schulz' father was also a barber?

... "The truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't going away." • Elvis Presley

... 'They said I changed a lot. I said a lot changed me.' • On-line

... 'Bachman's 1998' was the first gathering Linda and I attended. Found the information in 'Just so you know!' . . . October 15, 2020.

... "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." • Henry Ford



- 2,300 new 'Snow Emergency Route' signs were installed in Duluth last summer. We think our CIC display could use maybe a dozen or so, village-size, signs. Just in case we have a 'big weather event' in our living room.

• Display signs •



- I was asked this question; all of the words on our 'fortune cookie wrappers' are in English. This is the most recent wrapper we received. It will make a good sign for our Oriental area.



- This is a Penwise Action Figure; the/a Clown from 'It The Movie.' I know nothing about the movie, but I am always looking for clowns. Don't know the size of this one, or the cost. Looking for a local store that sells it.



- St. Nicholas Square 'Souvenir Whales' – don't know where I'd use this, or for what. I just think it's cute (and different). How about using it with Dept. 56, Christmas In The City, 'Scottie's Toy Shop;' or maybe on a fair or carnival midway?

... **Correction plus:** "'Sweet Home Chicago' 2018 Gathering: Three hundred forty-nine attendees. Fifty-nine clubs and Canada represented." - From JSYK, October 7, 2018 • Note: In most recent JSYK, I called the gathering "Sweet Town Chicago." Thanks to Julie for reading and informing me of my error. **Note:** I just read "Linda wore the 'Sweet Home Chicago' name badge #001, I had #002." We registered in October 2017 for the October 2018 Chicago Gathering.

... "A '**Swap Room**' was an interesting, new, Gathering concept. Win something you're not interested in – trade it out in the Swap Room. The items were changing all day long. Sometimes it was full of people and stuff. Sometimes one or the other was missing. Note: We made two 'happy swaps.'" • Printed in 'Just so you know! - Chicago 2018.'

... Linda and I are always buying 'a couple of things' at the Dollar Store. This time it was her turn, she came out with: 1). Justice League, 'Cyborg;' 2). Pixar, Monsters Inc., 'Mike Wazowski;' 3). Dreamworks, Madagascar, 'Alex;' 4). Mattel, Hot Wheels Speed Team, 'Fast Fish' (racecar); 5). Mat-tel, Matchbox, '2018 VW Beetle Convertible.' We will use in a parade or just toys for young visitors.

... "I may not be the most important person in your life.. I just hope that when you hear my name.. you smile and say 'That's My Friend!'" • On-line



- Here Linda and I are 'assembling' our first flower pots of the 2022 season. We were attending a class at *The Green House* in Carlton, MN. They will take care of the eight pots we filled. Snow on the ground, and temps below freezing, makes 'inside' necessary. Seventy plus pots were featured in our yard last year. • Country dancing brought us together; gardening and 'villages' are the other activities we share.

... I write JSYK with **no planned 'send' date**; there were eighteen columns in 2021 (over 2,000 words each). Find past issues of 'Just so you know!' on www.thevillagecollector.com/ • The most recent 'Just so you know!' was posted March 28, 2022 (before this one ☺).

... I received a 'Happy Birthday' card from The Village Idiots. It was awesome! **Thank you all.**

... It means something to me to see a 'City Lights' ad in Village D-Lights. We 'village people' need 'combinations' like that to keep our hobby going. • We enjoyed the owners, and staff, when we visited 'City Lights' during the '2015 California Gold Gathering.' Yes, we did spend money.



. . . 'Rockwell's Holiday Exhibit' Dept. 56, Original Snow Village - \$125.00. They may have 'hidden' the portraits inside, but I can see them well - I like that!



. . . Welcome to the newly formed club, the *Second City Collectors* in Illinois. Very happy to learn they are reading 'Just So You Know!'

. . . Note to *National Council of 56 Clubs*: The **deadline** to submit to the June/July issue of the NCC Club Connection has been **changed** to May 20, 2022. This is a reminder to NCC clubs.



. . . 133 videos, 19:15 hours; all were posted during 2021. They came from at least 9 states including Kentucky, New York, California, Florida, Michigan, Arizona, Indiana, Wisconsin, & South Carolina (with 20 from just 'United States'). Plus 7 from Netherlands, 6 from Italy, 5 from France, 4 from Canada, 3 from United Kingdom, 3 from Philippines, 2 from Germany, and 1 each from Australia, Belgium, Croatia, & United Arab Emirates. An additional 64 videos from unknown locations. • **New!** April 15, 2022, Bill Channell posted 144 minutes on sixteen 'Village Videos,' <http://thevillagecollector.com/>; take a look; They are all eligible to be nominated for the '2022 TVC Village Video Hall of Fame' on his web site. Note: I've viewed seven of them so far - it's fun!

. . . "Sometimes the best place to be is nowhere to be found." • On-line

. . . I've **always liked** the Dept. 56 Alpine Village 'market stands.' We own several; and also a collection of the small Lemax 'stands' (old and new). With Alpine Village now retired, I'm going to take a look at the new D56 Dickens' Village 'Market Fruit Stand' (if I need more). Leigh Gieringer also showed/mentioned the new 'Dickens' Market Gate' in VDL. It would work if I needed an entrance to a fancy market place. • D56 'Come one, come all!' is a new Dickens era accessory. The 'Sandwich board' gentleman could work in any market area, old or new.

. . . 'Brentwood' Dept. 56, Christmas In The City, a 2022 release townhouse. I saw a suggestion in VDL to 'put' two or three together as a "dynamic focal point" in a display. I agree; we already show that idea with our two D56 Dickens' Village, 'Mulberrie Court Brownstones.' With maybe one other residence on one end, they make a great city block in our CIC display. And, in a nice neighborhood.

. . . "Only one who attempts the absurd can achieve the impossible." • Fortune cookie



• Love It Like We Do •
Duluth, Minnesota new promotion





• **Treefrog Treasures Military Miniatures** •

• This is an attractive couple and we like to feature the unusual. They could be used in any of our displays and would be unexpected. 'Bluecoat Walking with Woman,' Colonial Classics, American Revolution; Frontline's C.C.3 2.25 inches tall. \$30.00. <https://www.treefrogtreasures.com/>

• 'Three Sitting Sailors,' dressed in their "winter-blues." These three sailors are armed and ready for action; I'm thinking sitting in the back of the appropriate vehicle in our CIC parade. King & Country's USN013.



• "Glossy finish; Santa letting loose and bowling!" Some of us are always looking for another Santa Claus; or maybe your other hobby is bowling. This 'guy' might work as an addition to a vignette or display. Not fancy, but he is doing something uncommon in displays. \$30.00 <https://www.treefrogtreasures.com/>

... "Check door displays - Picassa ??????" - These words were on the last page of my notes for this column. Do you have any idea what I meant - I don't ☺.

... Asked by several folks - "Did you fix Adelaide's accessory?" Yes, Linda and I 'fixed' 'Erin Go Braugh' (broken flag), 'Holiday Surprise' (young lady broken off). Both Dept. 56 CIC. They have been returned to the owner.



• That's me, with the shiny head; and Robin somebody with the raffle tickets (over his left shoulder). • 'Sweet Home Chicago 2018.' From Robin Hervey's Facebook Page.



• 'Crayola Super Sharpener' - D56, North Pole, 2022, what do you think he is doing? Yes, I figured it out; I didn't realize elves use such large crayons.



• Dept. 56 – ‘Hitching Post Hanging Sign’ \$6.95 – I’m thinking country dancers, like us, should have this sign; just in case we ever have a ‘**clothing building**’ that needs a sign.



• Dept. 56 – ‘West India Docks Weathervane’ - \$6.95 – We have a friend who fishes everywhere he travels; state by state. There must be somewhere he could use this weathervane; telling him where to go (fishing).



• How playful are there ‘guys.’ ‘White Christmas Fox Face Off.’ “In Scandinavia, the fox is considered to be an animal that brings good luck. These two seem ready to face off and play in the new-fallen snow.” 3.1"L x 2.25"W x 1.125"H – Dept. 56, 2021. • I wonder if these two would keep the rabbits out of our gardens.



... National Council of 56 Clubs ‘**Virtual Mini Gathering,**’ Saturday, May 21, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 4 p.m. via Zoom - \$10.00 per person. <https://ncc56.com/MiniGathering2022.shtml> for details and registration.

... The ‘*Philippine Christmas Village Collectors Club,*’ easily has the most members of any village club I’m aware of; 1,600!!

... “To make the right choice is to save time.” • Fortune cookie

... “To go too far is as bad as to fall to short.” • Fortune cookie

... Like many others, village **storage space is crowded** in our residence. Accessories, people, houses take up approximately one third of the basement of our 25 ft. x 37 ft. home. Most are on shelves; floor to ceiling. Some are in ‘old’ dresser drawers. I barely fit between the rows. Our garage stores: display tables, shelves, Styrofoam bases, mountains, hills and backgrounds. The over-sized, three car garage, is bigger than our house (but that’s another story).

... Additional abbreviations (I might use): AV – *Alpine Village* • CIC – *Christmas In The City* • DV - *Dickens’ Village* • NEV – *New England Village* • NP – *North Pole Village* • SV – *Original Snow Village*.



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

• 2,585 is the number of words in this JSYK – not counting this line • add number of images