

# JUST SO YOU KNOW! . . . . AUGUST 10, 2022

## IDEAS, HINTS, AND OPINIONS

BY DAVID SPEARS

. . . 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 Penter's '*Show Your Village To The World*,' new column is titled '*Imagineering™*' – He writes about 'muti-lated' buildings; using multiples manufactures. • Brian Vaill's, '*The vation Car*' • Thea Heyink with Sue Adkins, Northampton, Eng-Christmas 2022 • '*From Italy*,' Peppe Apuleo, '*It is nice to look at Villages of the friends*' • <http://thevillagecollector.com/> • Past '*Just so you know!*' columns are also on the site.

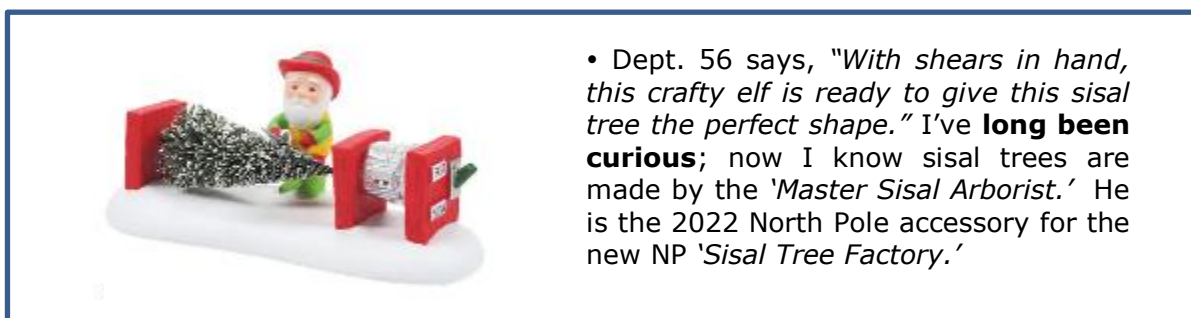


. . . National Council of 56 Clubs Region VI: Northern Lights Collectors Club, Twin Cities, MN, Tom Iacoviello, [tiacoviello@yahoo.com](mailto:tiacoviello@yahoo.com) • Village North Collectors Club, Duluth MN/Superior, WI, Adelaide Cline, [amcline@chartermi.net](mailto:amcline@chartermi.net) • City Lights, Mankato, MN, Mary Zellmer, [mzellmer@hickorytech.net](mailto:mzellmer@hickorytech.net) • D56 Builders and Treasurers, Janesville, Beloit WI/Rockford, IL, Charlene Swansboro. • Region VI Representative: Debbie Oehme, [region6ncc@ncc56.com](mailto:region6ncc@ncc56.com).

. . . <http://thevillagecollector.com/> My Village "A Gallery of Passion" A nice place to find a small group of pictures of fifteen villages (currently). Each display includes enough pictures to **get you interested** in knowing more.

. . . As Thelma said, "Ooop's" – The 2022 '*First Steps For a Big Project*' (\$52.00) co-ordinates with '*Oxford's Tom Tower*.' That means I was wrong when I said in the last JSYK; '*Oxford Professor & Student*' is the only accessory for the new Dept. 56 *Dickens' Village* Sub-Series. Obviously there are two (so far). Thanks for reading and correcting.

. . . Remember there is no planned 'location,' or 'order,' for content in my columns. In other words, I have no idea what I'm doing • I last said this May 9, 2022, JSYK!



• Dept. 56 says, "*With shears in hand, this crafty elf is ready to give this sisal tree the perfect shape.*" I've **long been curious**; now I know sisal trees are made by the '*Master Sisal Arborist*.' He is the 2022 North Pole accessory for the new NP '*Sisal Tree Factory*.'

. . . Goodwill in Kenwood (Duluth, MN) has the following Dept. 56, Christmas In The City pieces in their store: '*Ivy Terrance*,' '*Hi De Ho Nightclub*,' '*Town Tree*,' '*Holy Name Church*,' and '*Pickford Place*.' We **purchased** the '*The Grand Movie Theater*' and '*Ritz Hotel*.' All we looked at were in good shape; cost around \$20.00 each. • Some readers have us looking at buying **duplicate buildings**, making our own subtle changes and adding them to the same neighborhood as our original building. We haven't done it – yet!

. . . Department 56 – Facebook: "*On July 31, 1980 a very special boy was born. Happy birthday to Harry Potter! And the world of wizardry and warlocks has never been the same since!*" Posted July 31, 2022. Image of Harry Potter Professor Dumbledore on page 4.

. . . "*Sometimes the best way to stay out of trouble is to just go take a nap.*" • Online

. . . The 2nd Qtr. 2022, Village D-Lights **arrived** in Duluth, MN on July 13 - just so you know! I haven't yet finished reading it; not sure what that means.



• I liked the Dept. 56 'Cardinal Christmas Sign' when I first saw the 2022 intro. Now I know why; it's the '**obvious sign**' for the CT Christmas Tree Farm. They have ten, red delivery trucks. Note: they offer free delivery. I've seen them on [d56club.com/](http://d56club.com/) - Sign \$18.50



. . . "What different logos? I only see one." • I mentioned fortune cookie wrappers and using them as **signs** in an Asian village. I showed one but mentioned two. My friend Esme asked me about it. Now there are two.



• A selection of paint colors, a paint brush, an interesting outfit – I believe he can be added to our **collection of artists**. What do you think? • The ad says "*Painters were necessary ground crew personal that pilots depended upon to keep their aircraft up to standards upon returning from a mission.*" John Jenkins Painter Allied Ground Crew, \$25.00. <https://trainsandtoysoldiers.com/> • He probably won't be found in the 'artist collection' of other villagers.



• The 'Quilt Flag' is what I **noticed first**; then I saw the 'Button Hanging Sign.' Now I discovered they belong on the 'North Pole Christmas Quilts;' a 2022, Dept. 56 North Pole introduction. I've been told elves make the quilts to "*keep off the chill of those long winter nights.*" We do the same at our house; well Linda does the work; I just enjoy.



- "Man 'Watching The World Go By' - An older Chinese gentleman, perhaps the owner of the Pawn Shop, observing the hustle and bustle of the street below. \$55.00"

- This twentieth century Pawn Shop façade could be a very nice addition to our Chinatown. The building has the ground floor pawn shop protected by decorative and sturdy metal grills and bars. An entrance leads up to the first floor dwelling and terrace. Note the people and plants 'up there.' JSYK, pawn shops have been legal in Hong Kong since 1926. \$199.00. <https://www.treefrogtrasures.com/>



- "Lady 'Watching The World Go By' - A young Hong Kong lady leans over the balcony to call out to a friend in the street below... An ideal figure to add a little 'human touch' to the new 'Pawn Shop' building. \$55.00"



- 'Britains and Charbens Circus Clowns, etc.' 6 pieces; a lion tamer, boxing **clown and kangaroo**, 2 clowns in baggy pants, and a Charbens Ring Master. Post War. Always looking for another clown or two, sooo, maybe? <https://trainsandtoysoldiers.com/>



- *Marvel Comics 'stuff'* came on my Dole bananas. Logo-tag. Top, She is *Capt. Marvel*. Note: I got this info from the mom across the street. I was not able to confirm with her kids. • Didn't find the ID of the other two.



- We often feature a small golf vignette somewhere in our home (during 'village season'). There must be a way a way to work this man with a microphone into our country club scene. I mean he is also holding a golf club. This figure depicts **Mr. Bob Hope** as he appeared during the *United Service Organization (USO) Tours* in the '60's and '70's. He is wearing a *USMC Field Shirt* and a red cap with *USMC* on the front. They also will offer a 1967/'68 version. Between 1941 and 1991, Hope made 57 tours for the *USO*, entertaining military personnel. <https://www.treefrogtreasures.com/> 2 3/4" tall. \$49.00.



- I was able to **ride** in an actual railroad 'speeder' in my much younger years. First time was in Mason, WI. (*Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway* or *Soo Line* railroad?). Second in Proctor, MN; that, almost certainly, was the *DM&IR*. This O Gauge model is *Union Pacific*, but I don't think they'd mind. *O-Line Reproductions*. Saw on 'Trains and Toy Soldiers.'



Motorized Speeder with figures, \$39.95



- Harry Potter showing the power of his wand to Professor Dumbledore, Headmaster at Hogwarts. Dept. 56, *Harry Potter Village* introduced this accessory in June 2018. 3.15 in H x 1.78 in W x 1.85 in L.



- Haven't seen a 'village' bee-keeper before. This one is dressed to do the job **using a 'smoker,'** 'Calming The Bees,' while harvesting the honeycombs. It's an accessory for a roadside stand, the 'Honey Hive,' which offers many freshly harvested honey products. Both are Dept. 56, *Snow Village Halloween 2021* intros. 3.23 in H x 2.32 in W x 3.66 in L; 4.13 in H x 5.79 in W x 7.24 in L • Saw this on the *NCC56 Facebook* page, posted by Dianne Marie Hoffmeyer. She is the owner and CEO at *Domestic Goddess*, lives in Lakeport, MI.



. . . The card said, "Congratulations you are a booby prize winner" – It came in my 'prize bag' at our annual *Neighborhood Night Out*. At least there was much great food; and many people. We also had the usual politicians, police officers (with and without K-9's) and a manned fire truck.



- Italian Alpine infantry? In my mind, Alpine should be Austrian – but I guess not all. My question is, is it OK to use **Italian Alpine** marching soldiers in our parades? In our usual CIC parade, the people can come from anywhere so I guess it wouldn't make any difference. However, maybe we could add a parade to our Alpine Village; then it would be a real question. • CBG Mignot Toy Soldiers *Italian Alpine Infantry Set*, 2 5/8" tall, \$97.00



... If you call our home, please say your name; we don't have caller ID.



'The Red Vespa Girls'

- Memories from the '50's: A friend had a *Vespa*; I had a 1950 *Chevrolet*. Weather permitting we would travel around town on his scooter. If one or the other of us had a date, he would take the car, the other the scooter. Sometimes we would double-date (using the Chevy). Rolly was a strong, tough dude, so no one said anything about two guys on a scooter; many times you could even find it parked at a local pool hall. • Linda just looked over my shoulder, she thinks '*The Red Vespa Girls*' are really cute; however the \$149.00 cost frightened her away. • This model features two young women on the Italian motor scooter, wearing the traditional Vietnamese dress, the '*Ao Dai*.' • Now that I'm thinking about it, he might have had Lambretta (a now defunct Italian company). • You can find more info at: <https://www.treefrogtreasures.com/>



<https://www.bradfordexchange.com/products/> "Bringing Home The Tree" Lighted Musical COCA-COLA Sculpture – I wanted to give you a 'heads-up' *Bradford Exchange* is back for 2022. We haven't yet bought anything, but I always to take a close look at what they offer.



... **A choice** of new *Traffic Lights* is offered by [Woodland Scenics](http://www.woodlandscenics.com). Their names; '*Mast Arm*,' '*Suspended Flashing*,' and '*Pedestal*' should tell you what they look like. I'm thinking they are a good way to control the vehicle traffic in a CIC or NEV display (making it safer for our pedestrians). Saw in [Model Railroader](http://www.modelrailroader.com) magazine, August 2022. [www.woodlandscenics.com](http://www.woodlandscenics.com)



- Very clever! This information is on the door to her village storage room. Her name is *Sherry McGinnis*. Wish I would have thought of it. I saw this on Facebook.

... <https://www.lemaxcollection.com/exclusives?> Shows the **Lemax exclusives** for 2022: 'Michael's' • 'Gift Spice' • 'Normal Rockwell' (2023)



- **Norman Rockwell, 'Antique & Gift Shop'** – I like the 'look' in the windows. In the pictures, the detail is great and colorful. We get to see inside of an antique shop, gift shop and a residence. It is very detailed with rounded siding shingles and a turret with stained-glass windows. In my eyes, the Victorian-era building is almost a 'stand-alone.' H 10.24 x W 9.76 x D 7.01 inches. This is one of the **six Lemax 2023** introductions for Norman Rockwell. Note: The insurance agency entrance is on the right side. <https://store.nrm.org/catalogs/each/result/?q=lemax>

... Linda spotted the **2022 Lemax Halloween** at our local *Michael's*. They have a very small display, but it did include most of the items shown in the brochure. I made a quick visit: 'Halloween Pet Walk' was my only purchase (\$9.99, - 30% off = \$6.29); We don't have a we did take a good look house.' I even like the sive has some nice fea- of the witches on 'Dancing mated accessory wasn't thing about the move- ty' (\$29.99) is also new attention. I simply liked than in photo. Buildings, chael's offers 30 new Le- max has a 'Days to Hal- don't really like the signs sooo, no; plus



'Toil and Trouble Ale House'

display for the season, but at the 'Toil and Trouble Ale- name. This Michael's exclu- tures; I also liked the 'look' In The Moonlight.' The ani- hooked up so I can't say any- ment; 'Day of the Dead Par- for 2022 and attracted my it. Looks better in person accessories and figures, Mi- max Halloween pieces. Le- loween' accessory for 2022. I Christmas 'countdown' flip where would we use it.



'Halloween Pet Walk'



'Dancing In The Moonlight'



'Day of the Dead Party'

. . . 2022 Lemax Halloween Exclusives for **Gift Spice** 2022 Halloween 'Spooky Pumpkin Express,' 'Lou's Trees Farm,' 'The Lollipop Shop,' 'Pat-A-Cake Primary,' 'Candy Penguin Colony,' 'Mrs. Penguin Colony,' 'Mrs. Claus and Cookies,' 'Gingerbread Truck.'



. . . "Advice to Old People – Do not sit on the floor without a plan on how to get back up." • The Grinnin' Bear – I can tell you that's a very true statement.

. . . "I am not replaceable and I mean that in the most humble way possible." • Online

. . . "The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened." • Mark Twain

. . . "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain." • Online

. . . "Well done is better than well said." - Poor Richard's Almanac, 1737



<https://www.bradfordexchange.com/products/> "Bringing Home The Tree" Lighted Musical COCA-COLA Sculpture – I wanted to give you a 'heads-up' *Bradford Exchange* is back for 2022. We haven't yet bought anything, but I always to take a close look at what they offer.



. . . *Menard's* is beginning to show their **new** model railroad buildings (in ads, not yet in our stores). Cripple Creek is the community name for their weathered, older style structures. The two pictured were the 'Cripple Creek General Store' and the 'Cripple Creek Crossing.' 'Jack the German Shepherd' is an accessory with both of them; I like the dog. Model Railroader, August 2022. [www.menards.com/](http://www.menards.com/)



• Tom Reed's entry was selected *the winner*: '**Santa For US**' is the name of the all-new 2022 Village Accessory from the *D56 Club*. The story says "This is a terrific entry and uses a very clever play on words. The "US" stands for the **United States** as well as "us" Department 56 fans." It is of high quality and will come from the factory in the UK. Hand painted as well. They expect to ship them to you by early October. \$84.50. To order, e-mail for all the details at [bv@fairpoint.net](mailto:bv@fairpoint.net). Or go to: <https://d56club.com/page/shop#!A-Santa-for-US> Note: Over 100 entries were submitted.

. . . I saw one again; a 1:43, '57 Chevrolet taxi. It's a two-door hardtop, a **two-door taxi?** - I don't think so. Passengers ride in the backseat, you get the idea.

. . . 'I started out with nothing and still have most of it left.' • Online

. . . William Dillard is a person we will always remember from gatherings. It was a pleasure meeting him. He died in July. Our best to his family. - *Linda and David Spears*

. . . Your comments, questions and suggestions are always welcome. Please remember, with no words from others I may have less to say 😊.

. . . 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](mailto:spears.duluth@juno.com), 105 E. Toledo St., Duluth, MN 55811 or (218) 724-6148.*

- 2,954 is the number of words in this JSYK – not counting this line • 34 images •