

JUST SO YOU KNOW! MARCH 28, 2022

IDEAS, HINTS, AND OPINIONS

BY DAVID SPEARS

. . . There may be something you 'need' to know on the last page – Note: I'm not sure, I haven't written it yet; you'll have to take a look.

. . . 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 page 10.

. . . The 'Coach is Here,' by Bill Channell is on hiatus. • Jim Peter's 'Show Your Village To The World,' new column is titled 'Green Screening' - "how you insert a live person into a photo still or short video clip." • You can also visit past issues of 'Hauntsville' and 'Dick-an Vaill's,' 'The Train Station,' new offering. • Thea Heyink with her 'The Creation Station' projects; the newest, 'Shelves.' • Phil & Sue Adkins, Northampton, England. New column: 2202 Lemax, their village display cleanup. • Past 'Just so you 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.

. . . Good (**great**) to hear folks are continuing to share JSYK with their club members – thank you! Eight or nine clubs now.

. . . Someone, Robin, didn't know about my "pizza declaration." But it's OK, he also favors "a good anchovy topping atop a thin crust!" Anchovy, really? • What is a "pizza declaration?"

. . . A Super Bowl prize from Dept. 56. You had to pick either the Rams or Bengals and post your choice on the Dept. 56 Facebook Page (within 24 hours of the Feb. 3 FB Live show). D56 was to draw a name from the folks that picked the Super Bowl winner; they were to be awarded both a Peanuts Village 'Chuck's Sporting Goods' and 'A Fall Tradition.' • **Change**: Dept. 56 decided to have two winners. They made the change because of the large group of entries and drew one name from each team. **Winners**: Rose Jackson and Lynn Plummer were drawn from the hundreds of entries.

. . . Zoom meetings, more clubs all the time are taking advantage; Linda and I have to find better equipment and get smarter about Zoom. We need to fit into what is happening around us.

. . . "Whatever you hear about me please believe it. I no longer have time to explain myself. You can also add some if you like." • On-line

. . . When I ask a question in this column, I really do want, or need, an **answer**. The better you are at replying, the smarter I look. Remember without you; there is no me – JSYK!

. . . The answer in 'Final Jeopardy' (paraphrased): "This city of 90,000 is the largest on the largest of the Great Lakes." SuzyQ wrote to me saying "I'm sure you know what completes the question. None of the 3 contestants did!!!! Two wrote "What is Green Bay?" The other wrote "What is Minneapolis?" The (correct) question is: "What is Duluth?"" • Note: Remember where we live.

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



◆ www.elvenar.com ◆



. . . Looks like fun! I saw these *Elvenar* game buildings on-line. It's a mythical world you can play in as either an elf or a human. Your task as the ruler of the town is to help your people prosper. Manufactories are a key element of *Elvenar*. They produce an important resource: Goods! Goods will be needed for any kind of progress. Not being 'real,' it would have to be an unusual/fun background.



- 'Couple with Take-Out Chinese Food,' Coca Cola Square Collection. 3.25 in tall. Coca Cola buildings were my beginning.

- 'The Wong's Chinese Cuisine,' Coca Cola Town Square. Our Oriental area could easily get bigger. The Lemax acc. was being used with it. Found the 'take-out' couple while looking for this image of Wong's.

- 'St. Martin's Day Frolic,' Set of 2 Lemax, 42268 2.67 inches tall, 2014 – 2018 Lemax. Never saw them before now – why?



. . . I had Butterburger; Linda, a walleye sandwich. We haven't figured out what to do with the 'clear plastic tops' from our Turtle Sundaes at *Culver's*. We know they must have a village display use. • Did drive-in at *Culver's* today; we were given number '56' for food delivery to our car.

. . . Fall 2002, *NCC Bulletin*, Secretary's Report: "David Spears was appointed to serve as the Deputy Editor for the *NCC Bulletin*. David is the Club Rep of the Village North Collectors Club from Duluth, MN." My thanks to Peggy (former NCC President), and Esme (former NCC Bulletin Editor); they confirmed the date for me.

. . . "'Sweet Town Chicago' 2018 Gathering: Three hundred forty-nine attendees. Fifty-nine clubs and Canada represented." • *JSYK*, October 7, 2018 • (Linda and I were 2 of the 349 there).



- Looking at the 'Uptown Chess Club;' just because it would be fun to have a building with that name. Dept. 56, Christmas In The City, 2022 – 8.75 H x 4 W x 5.4 L inches. I already want the 'Perhaps the Queens Gambit? accessory.



- New for 2022, '4656 Brentwood,' different shapes and colors; yet will still **fit in** the neighborhood. I like that! Dept. 56, Christmas In The City. 10.5 h x 5 w x 4.75 L • What is 'A Woman's Best Friend?' Besides an accessory (below).

... "Don't blame a clown for acting like a clown. Blame yourself for going to the circus." • On-line

... **The Atlanta sank** on May 4, 1891. The ship was recently discovered in Lake Superior at a depth of 650 feet; 35 miles off Deer Park, MI. The 172-foot schooner-barge Atlanta was up bound with a load of coal in tow of the steamer *Wilhelm*; both vessels got caught in a northwest gale. Only two of the crew made it safely to the beach. 131 years ago and they just found it. • We live on a big lake, a very big (and deep) lake!

... 'Girl Scout Cookies' – she came to our door (her father was close by), gave us a short speech, and asked if we would like to buy something. We choose 'Carmel deLites,' she had no more 'Thin Mints' with her. I apologize, I forgot her name.

... The paper wrappers from most 'Fortune Cookies' look like **signs** for our displays Oriental area. Some of them are very nice; they are most all in a foreign language, with good logos.

... "A wise person knows there is something to be learned from everyone." • On-line

... I could tell **The Big Crabcake** had done this before. He, Emile Henault, was the host of a D56 Club Zoom Meeting and Demonstration. This first Zoom event for the club began on time; showed good prep, and was a smooth operation. The Easter Basket he made was won by Maddie Pimenta, from Mass., a meeting attendee. The March 12 event was also on YouTube. Note: NCC President Brandon Taylor and Vice President Anna McPherson were among the attendees. I was also there.



- A classy couple; 'A Christmas Honeymoon.' I appreciate his **stylish coat** and **hat**. Dept. 56, Dickens' Village, new for 2022. 2.75 inches tall, \$40. Coordinates with the new 'Cricket's Hearth Cottage.



- 'A Woman's Best Friend.' **What is it?** I thought it was the flowers, I then discovered the 'animal' in her bag. Had to read the 2022, Dept. 56 Village Brochure to know it's a dog. Not even a cute one.



- Luville - 'Santa's Ski Accident.' Can't have **too many** Santa's? Not sure we have one that 'ID's' with our skiers. What do you think, will he fit in? W 1.5, D 4.5. H 2.75. \$18.05.



- Luville - 'Alpenhorn Contest,' something different, and musical, could make a **nice addition** to our Alpine village. With D56 Alpine retired, we have to keep our eyes open. W 3.75, H 5.5, L 4.75 <https://www.felinaworld.com/us/luville?p=10> \$25.74



- Luville - 'Ski Rescue.' I'm not a skier, but it seems someone always falls. But, do they take you **downhill in a bathtub?** W 1.5, D 4.5, H 3. \$16.82.



- 'The Old Post Office' was connected to the Mercantile in Mason, WI. In the '40's and '50's I was there as often I could be; my grandfather was a rural mailman. He'd invite me 'help' him on his route. Although with his right-hand drive (war surplus modified for U.S. Postal Service use) Jeep, I was actually along for the ride. When he got his 1950 Chevrolet (left hand drive), I actually got to 'deliver the mail.' Good fun for a kid. • Lemax 2012.

... Leigh Thomas Construction - '**a good hockey coach**' was listed among his work qualifications. Does 'hockey coach' appear anywhere, except in Minnesota, as a job *qualification*? I mean; repairs, remodeling, construction, and hockey coach., i.e., for a construction company.

... On the Nat'l Council of 56 Clubs Facebook Page, posted March 15, 2022, by **Ms. Lit Town**: "ATTENTION ALL COLLECTORS who join us for FACEBOOK LIVE. In April, **we are moving** our FACEBOOK LIVE from the first Thursday, April 7th to the 2nd Thursday, April 14th. Why, you ask? So we can share the **mid-year introductions** with all of you! Join us, Thursday, April 14th, 4:00 PM Central Time. . . ."

... "Softening your attitude opens your heart." • Fortune cookie


... Dept. 56 Creative Director Rick Jackson joined Ms. Lit Town Melinda Seegers March 3 on *Facebook Live*. They introduced 'Making A Village,' the new video on the creation of D56 pieces. The video reminded me of some stuff I'd forgotten; I also learned many new things. After the video, Rick did a nice job answering many good questions submitted by viewers. Find the video at: <https://department56.com/blogs/from-the-desk-of-ms-lit-town/making-a-village>

... It's great being part of the 1% *Special Group*! This special group was born between 1930 and 1946 = 16 years. - "You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the 'milk box' on the porch." - I remember, JSYK!



• **From the D56 Club:** "For those who want to expand their Department 56 collecting experience, we have the D56 Club that provides the following benefits: **1).** Monthly Zoom Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The next will be April 9th, 2:00 PM Eastern Time Zone. Includes a 'how to' demonstration. **2).** A high-quality magazine for D56 Club Members (coming soon); **3).** Of course, our D56 Club Forum that is free to use; **4).** While they last, a FREE Department 56 Flag Accessory for those who join the D56 Club." • "How do I join the D56 Club. Very easy. Go to the D56 Club Forum at <https://d56club.com>. Then click on SHOP just below the banner. Then select the Premium Membership Option and you can pay the very reasonable membership fee of \$ 25.00. The flag gift is worth more than the membership fee. If you prefer, send a check payable to the D56 Club to B. Vaill, P.O. Box 33, Naples, ME 04055." Note: I am a member – name Davidg

• This sign was at the door of our seminar at the *Chicago Gathering* in 2012. Linda and I try to take a picture of each sign to prove, to ourselves, we were really there. If my memory serves we held two, well attended, seminars at the event. It was fun; both of us like to meet people, share information, answer questions – and talk!

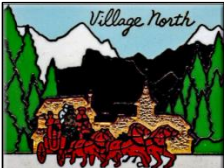


. . . Adelaide called; she asked if we could 'fix' a Dept. 56 accessory. I must have said 'yes;' she brought her new 'Holiday Surprise' to our next meeting. The young lady was no longer part of the piece (broken). The D56, CIC, 2018 accessory was on my 'let's look at' list. After seeing it 'in person,' it's moved to 'OK to buy.' Even broken, I like it; very nicely done. The bouquet of flowers behind the man's back is **perfectly/naturally placed**. I've often said "if I could see this piece in person. . ." The Holiday Surprise was one. 1.25" x 1.75" x 2.75"

. . . "Always believe that something wonderful is about to happen." • Snoopy

. . . The email ad we all received said: "For a limited time, when you buy 'Castle Black,' get 'Jon Snow' FREE (\$55 value)! Shop the Bundle Deal!" I clicked for details; "Dept. 56 'Game of Thrones' - Jon Snow ~~\$55.00~~ + Castle Black ~~\$350.00~~ = **\$350.00**. Add entire Bundle to cart." • Will my mind ever be able to accept \$350.00 as the cost of a building (even with 'Jon Snow')?

Village North Collector's Club



Duluth, MN – Superior, WI

. . . "Peace begins with a smile." • Fortune cookie

. . . 'Village Videos' returned' on Tuesday, March 15th. Start viewing now so you don't get behind. Bill Channell will find many to share – 133 videos in 2021. I watched almost the entire 19:15 hours of videos he posted on TVC last year. <http://thevillagecollector.com/>.

. . . 'Bits and Pieces,' was the name of my first column in the 'On-Five,' 148th FIG, Minnesota Air National Guard (in October 1982). The newsletter was mailed monthly to members, families, all Air Guard units, and retired 148th members. I wrote there for over ten years.

. . . **Congratulations** to the 'Garden State Village Collectors Club' – they are planning an anniversary celebration for September – **30 years!!**



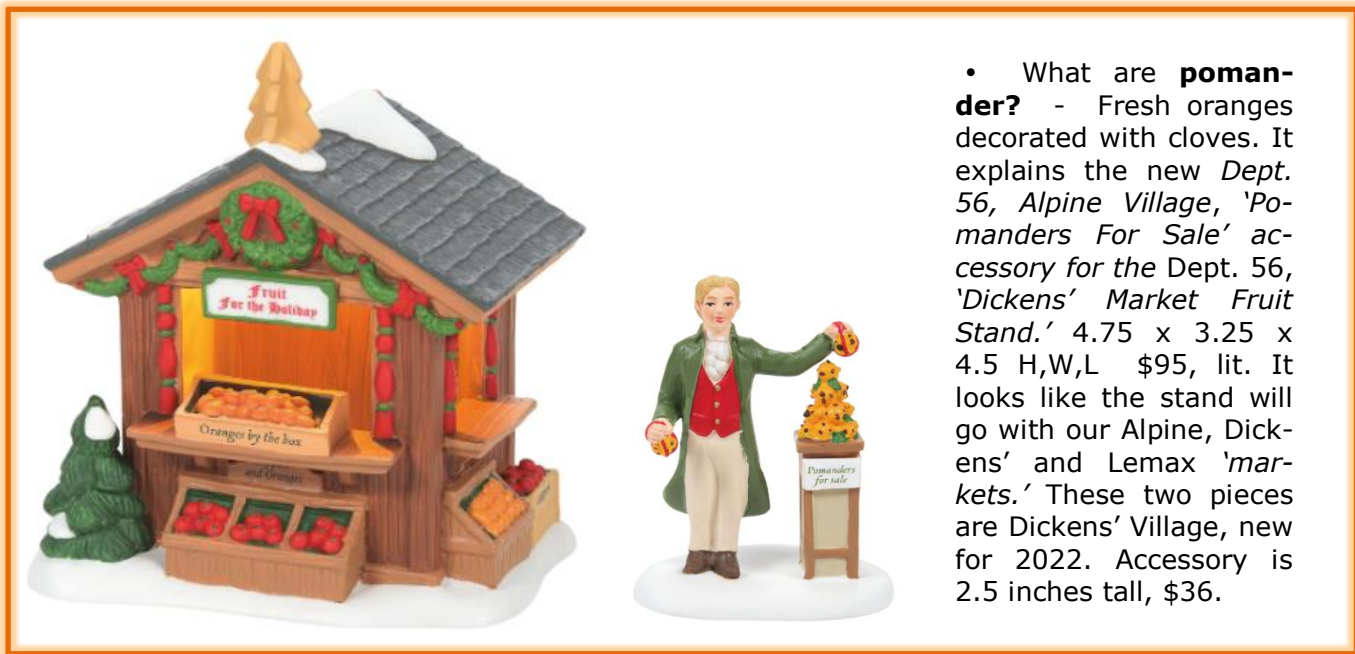
- Lemax 'Bread Bakers,' 2019 Caddington Village, #94530, H x W x D 4.33 x 7.09 x 3.54 inches. The lady in the green dress just doesn't fit my idea for this display. Might have to hide her. • I've always liked 'homemade' bread. My mom taught me bread baking when I was a kid; began by doing the mixing of the dough (in one of those big hand-cranked things). Made white, wheat and rye bread on a regular basis; loved then all.

... On March 2 **President Joe Biden** visited Superior, WI; First Lady Dr. Jill Biden was also on Air Force One when the aircraft landed in Duluth. Not only did I not see the Biden's, I also missed their very big airplane; coming and going. Note: We live near the flight path for the Duluth Int'l Airport.



- Message from *Walgreens*; we had pictures to be picked up - from last fall. Twenty 4 x 6; really eighty, 2 x 3 color pictures - **all of the same** 'Sunday Stroll' figurines! While they are my favorite 'village couple,' we still don't need eighty images. Dept. 56, Simple Traditions, Pine Isles, \$9.99, at *Kohl's*. Purchased Dec 4, 2002. Linda had used the image on our 2021 Christmas card - just so you know!

... When Gina Aiello was asked, "trees" was the answer; the question was, "**Favorite accessory?**" Gina was the featured 'Villager Profile' in *'The Garden State Village Collectors Club Newsletter,'* March 2022. • Trees! - I've never heard that reply before; just so you know!

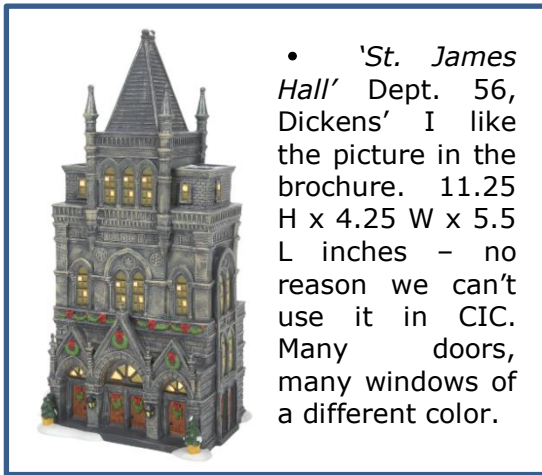


- What are **pomander?** - Fresh oranges decorated with cloves. It explains the new Dept. 56, *Alpine Village, 'Pomanders For Sale' accessory for the Dept. 56, 'Dickens' Market Fruit Stand.'* 4.75 x 3.25 x 4.5 H,W,L \$95, lit. It looks like the stand will go with our Alpine, Dickens' and Lemax 'markets.' These two pieces are Dickens' Village, new for 2022. Accessory is 2.5 inches tall, \$36.

... As of 5:12 pm, ET, Thursday, March 10, 2022, *The Village Collector* has been visited 246,389 times by 158,745 unique villagers from 196 countries. <http://thevillagecollector.com/> - Stop by and take a look (and say 'Hi!' to Bill).



- Always looking for **'different'** additions for our parades. I'm attracted to this 'Royal Marine Crum Corps' from King & Country. It's the helmets and fancy, colorful cover the bass drummer wears, I noticed first. The set is used, a drummer is missing a drumstick, but at \$125, still a good price. [//www.treefrogtreasures.com/](http://www.treefrogtreasures.com/)



- 'St. James Hall' Dept. 56, Dickens' I like the picture in the brochure. 11.25 H x 4.25 W x 5.5 L inches - no reason we can't use it in CIC. Many doors, many windows of a different color.

- "Victorian Clown with Flowers" - A Pierrot inspired version of a clown in authentic Victorian costume. He is balancing 3 balls in one hand while hiding a bouquet of flowers behind his back." Figure is approx. 2 1/2 inches tall. Made from English pewter and hand painted in the United Kingdom. <https://www.treefrogtreasure.com/> • Are we in need of a Victorian Clown for our collection (of clowns)?



... Adelaide, Roberta, Linda and I removed the VNCC Dickens' display at *Aftenro* in Duluth, MN.

... "Thanks to the people that walked in to my life and made it better. And thanks to the ones who walked out and made it amazing." • On-line



... 'Busy City Sidewalks,' 1999, CIC, Dept. 56, **still 'alive'** in the 2022 Village Brochure. Not sure why we haven't purchased more than a single set. They are used each year. Just noted I received these as a 2000 Christmas gift from Jeff, Linda's son. That means we haven't purchased any - yet.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER OF VILLAGE D-LIGHTS

2022 NEW D-56 INTROS

EXPAND YOUR VILLAGES WITH RELATED THEME ELEMENTS...

SECONDARY MARKET INFORMATION

Please be patient as our 2022Q1 issue is printed and distributed. As you are probably now aware, there are many ripples from both pandemic disruptions and the global upheaval we are currently experiencing. *One commodity that is in short supply is paper.* It may take just a bit longer for your magazine to reach you, but we are working diligently with our print partners to deliver our uplifting content as quickly as possible, with the terrific photo quality you have come to expect from us! Please contact us with questions or concerns at: pclark@tandempublishinggroup.com.

• Phil Renninger, a regular contributor to Village D-Lights; He posted this on the National Council of 56 Clubs Facebook Page on March 8th.

... What do you want (and don't want) to see in 'Just so you know!' I ask because I wander around and sometimes I go places that are only of interest to me. What I'm saying is I need input; either yes or no or(?). Otherwise I don't know what to say.

... **Correction:** The name of the NCC newsletter is "Club Connection – Keeping Clubs Plugged in to Collecting and Each Other." – Last column I wrote: "Club Connector."

... **Correction:** The Airbrite Lighting System is making people happy. For information from the company: <https://www.airbritelighting.com/collections/airbrite-lighting> • The best demo video I've seen was posted on the Lemax Addicts Facebook Page on Jan 23, 2022 by Rosie Hurtado • Last column I wrote: "Village Addicts Facebook Page." Thanks Myrna.

... 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.

• 3,260 is the number of words in this JSYK – not counting this line • plus 21 images •