

# JUST SO YOU KNOW! . . . . FEBRUARY 13, 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 page 10.

. . . **Dates of note:** February 14, *Valentine's Day* – February 12, *Lincoln's Birthday* – February 16, *Village North meeting* – February 22, *Washington Birthday* – March 3, *Ms. Lit Town Live* – March 14, *Daylight Savings Time Begins* – March 17, *St. Patrick's Day*.

. . . '*Fisherman's Nook Cabins*,' Dept. 56, SV, \$7.99, *Goodwill*, Kenwood, Duluth – one had a broken railing. I read one is a Bass and the other a Trout (cabin). Not sure what it means. They will be used 'in the woods' in New England (changed to matte if shiny bothers us).

. . . The ad says "2022 Lemax models are charming collectibles with a wide selection enabling you to construct and display a large town or a bijou village." – Def. *bijou*; small and elegant.

. . . "Well, we've survived another '*Holiday Season*,' the '*Coach is Here*,' by Bill Channell. • Jim Peter's '*Show Your Village To The World*,' new column is titled '*Publishing Your Video on YouTube*.' Again Jim wants me to learn new stuff. • You can also visit past issues of '*Hauntsville*' and '*Dickensville*' by Larry Treadwell. • Brian Vaill's, '*The Train Station*,' new offering; 'Lionel Sante Fe F units, O gauge.' • Thea Heyink with her '*The Creation Station*' projects; the newest, '*2021 Christmas Village on Three 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](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).

. . . "Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done." – came with a picture of Snoopy

. . . *ModelExpo* has many Formula 1 single-seaters (**open wheel race cars**). They have dozens of 1:43 scale, all metal, cars; \$79 and up (each). Probably too expensive to purchase twenty cars, or so, for a 'race;' but one, two or three for a showroom, or car show, could be possible. <http://modelexpo-online.com/>

. . . February 9 national '*Pizza Day*' – with all the pizza comments I've made, I'm really surprised no one mentioned this '**special day**' to me – just saying. • Just saw on TV; Sao Paulo, Brazil has the most pizza places in the world (and 20 million people). Large Italian population, 4,500 pizzerias.

. . . *Toyota* TV ad, *2022 Olympics Opening Ceremony* – They had my attention with the video camera moving through a picture of people – it looked like they were traveling through a village display, very cool. But what really got me, was a moving, actual **dancing ballerina** with an artificial leg; a very good ballerina! I was so impressed I had to write about it. I hope you all saw her.

. . . The new Harry Potter '*Hogsmeade Station*' is **not pictured** in the 2022 Dept. 56 Village brochure. Ms. Lit Town, Melinda Seegers, mentioned it on *D56 Facebook Live*, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

. . . '*The*' on some Dept. 56 product names sometimes confuses 'Google Search' on my computer. It always causes me a problem on my Microsoft Word lists of stuff. Example: '*The Radio City Rocketts*.'



- Ski jump, downhill, slalom, snowboarding, snowmobiling all on the same hill; even includes Mrs. Claus and Santa – Linda likes poinsettias and snowmen. Half pipe and ski jump are by John Rapacz; hill by us. This was our house 2020.

... I was just reading on-line; saw this in the January 2021, *Village Idiots, Front Porch*, newsletter. It said: "April 6 - David Spears of 'Just So You Know' emailed to say he noticed April was blank, and volunteered his birthdate. Happy Birthday 2021, David - for all you do to keep us informed!" • I'm also planning on a birthday in 2022 – just so you know!

... USA Curling Team Skip, *John Shuster*, carried the **American Flag** for the opening ceremony at the *Beijing Olympics*. Shuster lives in Superior, WI - down the hill and over Lake Superior; at the other end of the Blatnik Bridge. The team practices at the *Duluth Curling Club*.

... <http://thevillagecollector.com/> As of 2:00 p.m., Sunday, February 13, 2022 they have been visited **240,788 Times** by **154,096 Unique Villagers** from **195 Countries**. Join the crowd!

... Don't forget the first Thursday of each month: **Dept. 56 Facebook Live** at 4:00 p.m. CT. Next time Melinda Seegers will show more of the 2022 introductions as well as update us on things happening at Dept. 56. The date is March 3, 2022.

... Musing – "A product of contemplation; a thought." Note: the word was used to describe/explain this column – by several people. I had to look it up.

... February is the 1st Anniversary of the new *Ronald McDonald House Northland* in Duluth, MN. Our *Village North Collectors Club* is honored to contribute food for the families of hospital patient's. We collect pop tabs as well. <https://www.rmhc-uppermidwest.org/>

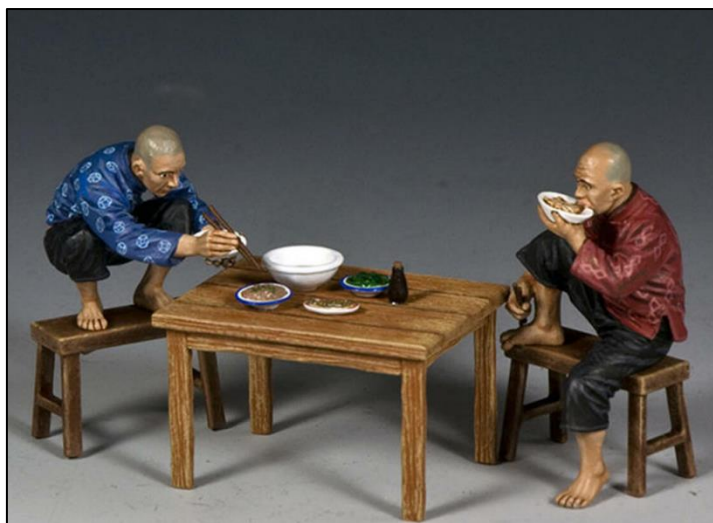
... "Genius is the ability to reduce the complicated to the simple" • Fortune cookie





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- King & Country Soldiers, Christmas Collections, 'Santa And His Polar Bear.' If looking for just one more Santa, or one more polar bear, this could be the 'one.' It is \$109.00.



## Trains and Toy Soldiers

- 'Mid Day Meal' looks like good possibility if we **add to our Oriental display**. I know nothing of the 'eating positions;' I'll bet I could find out (if necessary). From *King & Country Soldiers, Streets Of Old Hong Kong*. 1/30 scale. \$119.00 it is pricey. [//trainsandtoysoldiers.com/](https://trainsandtoysoldiers.com/)



- A 'car person' in Duluth owned a Fiat 500 in the '60's. I never drove it, but had the opportunity **for a ride**. It was cute, but tough for me to get in and out, even though I was a lot smaller then. And, it didn't have a Luftwaffe pilot behind the wheel (or headlight covers). 1:30 scale. \$79.00 on sale.

<https://trainsandtoysoldiers.com/>

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... 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 *Village Addicts Facebook Page* on Jan 23, 2022 by Rosie Hurtado • Bill Channell has written his favorable opinion of the system. You will find it: <http://thevillagecollector.com/> ('Coach Is Here'). He has been 'playing' with his Airbrite for over a month.

- <https://www.lemaxcollection.com/home> - the site features the **2022 Lemax Christmas Village and 2022 Spooky Town** introductions. This year, there are **147 new** Holiday and Christmas pieces. Plus, **53 new** Halloween pieces •

... Have you ever wondered **where pumpkins go** when they die? How about 'Crypt Of The Lost Pumpkin Souls,' a 2022 lighted building from Lemax *Spooky Town*.

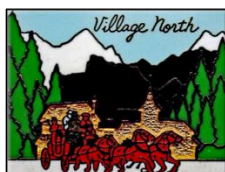


• *Walther's Trains* is having a *Culver's* contest: [www.walthers.com](http://www.walthers.com) has the explanation. You should know we like to show things in our displays that have **personal touch** or interest. This time it is because Linda and I both like their food. Turtle sundae, with chocolate custard, is our favorite (lots of pecans). HO scale Kit - 13-1/4 x 8-1/4 x 3-1/4 inches.

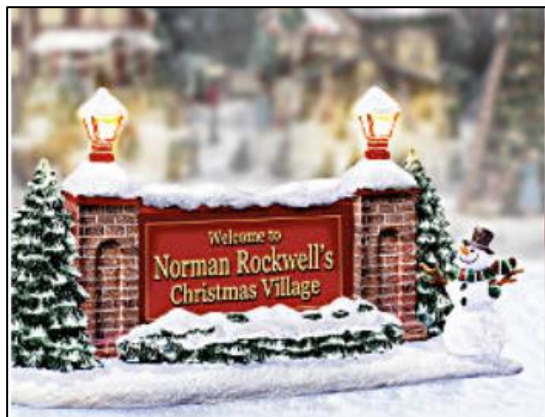


• Every year **we thank Tom Iacoviello** for 'finding' the polar bears for us. They were the very first of our now many 'zoo pieces.' We saw the bears first at Tom's open house. He got them for us at the *Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering* in 2005 - \$22 from *Tracy's*. We added the penguins at a later gathering (also from *Tracy's*). Swimming under water, small fish and bubbles makes them extra interesting. They look as good today as they do in these pictures, i.e., they age well.

*Village North Collector's Club*



*Duluth, MN – Superior, WI*



• 2009 - 'Norman Rockwell's Christmas Village' sign. I must really like it; I've kept this picture for a long time.



• This is a display we built for a gathering contest; someone added **too many** of Linda's trees. I don't do it (much) anymore. In person, it was easier to see what it was; honest.





- 'Gifts For The Grandchildren' • • 'Christmas Shopping Date,' • • 'Holiday Shopping With Mum' •
- Shopping is very popular; these three are all part of Lemax 'Caddington Village' for 2022 •
- Plus, also new, the 2022 Lemax, Vail Village, 'Family Holiday Shopping Spree' •

... "The harder you work, the luckier you get." – Gary Player



- I really like the 'guitar' grandpa; it is so nice of the little girl to provide 'The Music Lesson.' New from Lemax for 2022. 1.89 x 2.36 x 1.69 inches. Linda played the guitar; I took 'unsuccessful' lessons. Note: Lemax had 'To The Music Lesson' (French Horn) in 2006.

• 'Top Pizza Delivery' is an accessory we might be looking for. He would fit in CIC or NEV. Not sure we would be feeding pizza to the dog. • The 'Pizza Top' building is just 'too much' for me. Like the 'inside' views; pizza on the roof is over the top. • Lemax 'Harvest Crossing,' 2022.



... It looked like a rather **large baked potato**. Really it is what happens with frozen bread dough when you use too much power in the microwave. Note: it actually tasted OK, but was very dense and quickly dried up to be 'bird food.'

Northern Lights Collectors' Club



Crystal, MN – Central MN

... "They ran and raced on their snowshoe paws, and tummy-tobogganed on the ice. But then they stopped and stared . . . ." Just One More Swim by Caroline Pitcher and Jenny Jones. It is the story of two polar bear cubs brought to open water to swim under the watchful eye of their mother. • We have an interesting selection of reading material at our house.



- Volunteer firefighters practice at the 'Franklin Hook & Ladder Co.' Our display 2020.



- Theresa wrote on her Facebook page "*Playing with my watercolors. Birch trees.*" FB Jan 29, 2022 - I know there is a background use for this very nice painting. We know her.



- Looks like fun! 'Snow Rafting' is an activity **currently not present** in our house. If we find space, we might just add this to a display. Not sure about a canine driver however. 2022 Lemax, 'Vail Village.' (H x W x D) 2.32 x 5.31 x 3.15 inches will take up much space 'on the hill.'



'Mountain Climbers'

- Been '**needing**' these for a while; Lemax has answered. 'Mountain Climbers' and 'Vertical Mountain Climbers,' have been added to Vail Village for 2022. All near three inches tall. Possible use on the top of our ski 'mountain;' or in the *Alpine Village Alps*. Note: D56 has retired *Alpine Village*, I anticipate no climbers from them.



'Vertical Mountain Climbers'

... 'Mom's She Shed,' Lemax 2022 – not fancy, not sure it might not look good in a display. **Huh?**


... The TVC **2021 Hall of Fame Village Videos**, [www.thevillagecollector.com/](http://www.thevillagecollector.com/) Stop by and view the winners for the year. The voting is done, but take a look and tell the webmaster what you think. Your comments are always welcome by each display builders as well.






. . . Mike and Lani's hot tub display; I enjoy it each year. I liked this New England Village the best. Large, interesting, and very well done. *Village North Collectors Club* members.

**SUPER BOWL!!**





- 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 will draw a name from the folks that picked the winner; they will be awarded both a Peanuts Village 'Chuck's Sporting Goods' and 'A Fall Tradition.' • Linda did get her selection in on time – JSYK!



- Not my **choice of green**; 'Romero's Bakery,' Dept. 56, CIC, new for 2022. Linda said the same when she saw the picture. The description says "Known for its wide selection of Italian bread and biscuits, 'Romero's Bakery' is the best place to stop for sweets and holiday treats in this neighborhood." I truly like everything mentioned, really wished I liked the house color. 8.5H x 4.02 W x 4.21D.



- We are frequently looking for more people on the street. *Dept. 56, Christmas In The City*, has offered us several interesting **new choices** for 2022. These would be our first three choices. We actually saw a couple more as well.



- 'Perhaps *The Queen's Gambit?*' i.e., an opening move in chess; I like the look, particularly the familiar haircut on the right. I don't play chess, but I was pretty good at checkers. 2.17 in H x 1.89 in W x 3.35 in L.



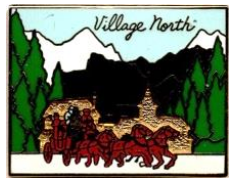
- 'Grandpa Will Love This,' I remember card shopping with Grandma for my multiple grandpas'. Divorce and adoption does that. I was lucky to have many.



- 'Today's Specials,' I like 'The Manhattan.' We would almost have to have this chalkboard sandwich board for the sidewalk outside the rather interesting restaurant.



- Mike and Lani featured eighteen D56, Christmas In The City, and 'The Radio City Rocketts' in this 2004 display. I took the photo because I'd just realized I liked the 'The Majestic Theater,' CIC, D56; still haven't made the purchase. Oh yes, we have four D56 Rocketts.



... 'Mike Goode Club Builder Award' has been created by the *National Council of 56 Clubs*. It "will be presented each year to the club that most embodied Mike's heartfelt love for his club and the passion behind which he put everything into that club - from sharing displays to greeting the newest member with a smile." Goode, NCC President 2012-2015, died January 5th.

... Lemax 'Summer Americana' series seems to be **missing** (again?) for 2022. We have a decent number of accessories/people from the series; was looking forward to adding more.





- <https://d56club.com/> - the location of a **Dept. 56 oriented forum**. I joined, 'davidg' is me. I'm asking questions, and answering them as well. Stop by and say 'Hi!' to 'davidg.' I've been informed that this 'membership flag' (for the forum) should arrive from England next week. I look forward to receiving mine.



'Carvana'

- *Carvana* TV ads got my attention. I thought their big 'car vending machine' would make a good place to display some of my cars. I tried a couple of ideas on making a 'see though' level or two for the dispenser; too large and complicated to go higher • If I have the thought again, I'll go back to look at the 'Parking Garage' from *Menard's*. The ad says "A wonderful way to **display your vehicle fleet.**" It holds up to thirty-eight 1:43 scale vehicles. I could create a 'car show' on the top floor and place the models of the real cars I've owned there. I also have enough cars to fill the remainder of the garage. Well lit; 21 wide, 12 deep, 16 1/2 high, \$119.00.



'Parking Garage' Menard's

... Bill must have added something new to his web site; sounds interesting. "Welcome to the Village Collectors' Café - **The home for guest columns** - What would you like to share? Just like the cafe and coffee house experience of the 50's and 60's. Just show up and share your thoughts and knowledge. <http://thevillagecollector.com>."

... A black squirrel and a rabbit were 'chasers;' now they 'meet and eat' in our yard - every day!



- 'Viking Dragon (Dreki) Longship' We both have family history with Norway, so this type vessel is always noticed. The web site provides a wonderful, **well worth reading**, history of the Longship. <https://www.treefrogtreasures.com/> Longship dimensions 23 1/4" length x 13 3/4" wide (includes oars) x 19" height. The Longship set contains: 20 crew rowing; 6 Viking warriors; 20 shields; 20 Oars. The \$1,780.00 price makes it impossible (for us) to buy.
- "When Magnus the Good (1047) put his ships to sea, it was as if a swarm of angels from the King of heaven - soared over the waves." •



• In January, the 'National Council of 56 Clubs' held a contest; the prize was a Dept. 56 'The Times Tower.' The names of clubs who entered were placed on this wheel and then spun. The 'Cardinal 56ers' of Virginia was the winner. I liked the colorful wheel when I saw it on Facebook, so I took this picture; and here it is. • The NCC is offering (more) regular contests; watch the NCC Facebook page, website, and Club Connector for the next one.

- . . . "Hardly anyone knows how much is gained by ignoring the future" • Fortune cookie
- . . . 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 •

• . . . **D56 Club Ambassador Program** • Each State and Province will be awarded an Ambassador, and some of the larger States will have more than one to make it more efficient to attend D56 events and to represent the club. Their function, to spread the good word about the D56 Club and Forum. All designed to be a lot of fun. <https://d56club.com/> and Search for Ambassador. Contact Brian Vaill if you have any questions, [bv@fairpoint.net](mailto:bv@fairpoint.net)



◆◆◆◆ Happy Valentine's Day ◆◆◆◆

- . . . "If you are still hungry, have another fortune cookie." • Fortune cookie



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.

• 3,019 is the number of words in this JSYK – not counting this line •  
• . . . . .

• "Enjoyed your JSYK for this month, as usual. This is obviously a lot of work and much appreciated. I bet you enjoy doing it though and it keeps you out of trouble from shopping trips with Linda lol. Say hi to Linda for me please – Sandy" •

• Thanks for sharing! – Jim •

• So sorry to see that Judith Price has passed away. I always enjoyed her at all the gatherings. Will also check out the top videos. They are always fun to look at. Take Care, Barb •