

# JUST SO YOU KNOW! . . . JULY 4, 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 Peter's '*Show Your Village To The World*,' new column is titled '*Most Watched Village Videos by Views*.' • Brian Vaill's, '*The Train Station*,' current offering; '*The Observation Car*' • Thea Heyink with her '*The Creation Station*' projects • Phil & Sue Adkins, column: "*Sue's Afternoon Tea*" • '*From It- Europe*' • <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).

. . . A new home for **guest columns** - '*Village Collectors' Café*' has become a location for guest writers on <http://thevillagecollector.com/>. Current writer: Alan K. Rogers, California, USA. "*How to scratchbuild with everyday household items*." • Bill Channell is looking for additional contributors.



• I ask you again; can **anyone identify** this '*Father Brown*'? I mean as a village person. We would like to have him provide comfort and prayers in a display or vignette. Note; to the best of my knowledge, Father Brown is 'not' his given name. I have spotted him in several displays, so I know he's out there - somewhere. Anyone?



. . . **The newspaper ad said** "*loads of Dept. 56 - Everything must go.*" Linda and I were *unable to 'shop'* the first weekend. Several of our Village North members were there and did spot an abundance of Dept. 56: Dickens,' North Pole and Halloween. Kim made several accessory purchases. Another opportunity to buy was held a week later. We were among the first in line; all the Dept. 56 was gone. We were told two individuals came in at the end of the previous weekend estate sale and had purchased it all. I found it an interesting story; had me wondering who. • A couple days later a friend called to say 'Hi!' She mentioned her purchase of all the 'heritage village' available at a recent sale. Note how quickly I found one of the buyers (and I wasn't even looking).

. . . '*De Kerstdorp Club Nederland*' (Dutch Christmas Village Club) has 47,000 members. That is most certainly the **largest village club**. They recently become a member of the NCC. Thanks to Thelma for the info. [www.kerstdorpclub.nl](http://www.kerstdorpclub.nl) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KerstdorpClub>. Their Website and Facebook page are in Dutch; your browser may have the ability to translate.

. . . Next Dept. 56 *Facebook Live* with Melinda Seegers will be Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. The show is taking the **summer off**.



- 'Mac Evoy's Pianos' has long been spotted by visitors to our 'displays.' Purchased in 2000, it was our first building with a **lighted interior**, i.e., you can easily see the piano on display inside. Not fancy (or tall), the building looks best on a side street. *Lemax Caddington Village*, \$20.00. Retired in 2005. Note the Dept. 56 NCC 'Silver Anniversary Couple' passing by.



- Now I've been reminded of the 'Hammerstein's Piano Co.' Dept. 56, Christmas In The City; a much **fancier piano dealer**. Released in 2007 with a cost of \$90, now selling on-line for around \$350; not sure it will be in our inventory. It would certainly fit in with CIC; and I like the outside 'hanging' (upright) piano. Retired 2009.



- 'Oxford Architecture,' the **new** Dept. 56 Dickens' Village **Sub-Series** began last year with 'Oxford's Radcliff Camera - left.' In 2022 they introduced 'Oxford's Tom Tower - right.' Tom Tower is the bell tower in Oxford, England and houses the "Great Tom" bell, the loudest bell in the city. I like the series look, a lot; not sure I'll ever be able to afford the pieces at \$250 and \$265. 'Oxford Professor & Student' is the only accessory so far, \$32.50.



. . . National Council of 56 Clubs 'Pearl Anniversary' - I gotta admit, never celebrated a 'pearl' event. Saw on page 14 of the most recently received Village D'Lights; page 14.

. . . "Asking for help is actually a sign of strength." • On-line

. . . Village North members (and friends) - August 26th and 27th are the new dates for the *The Village North Collectors Club* '**Rummage Sale Fundraiser**.' Questions, contact Gail and Jeff.

. . . "You'd better cut the pizza into four pieces because I'm not hungry enough to eat six." • Yogiisms - Yogi Berra

. . . Bill Channell has posted the **last question** for his 'Question of the Week' on 'The Village Collector.' - "**What TVC page do you visit most?**" I ask you to go to: <http://thevillagecollector.com/> and vote!" Bill said ". . . if you want to let friends, family and/or readers know to vote for you, that's OK."

. . . "We use a single on-off switch for the lit houses on each our larger displays. We use another switch for the accessories and animation. It works well when we need peace and quiet but still want to enjoy the "warm glow" of the city lights. Note: folks ask all the time about having that many bulbs connect to a single wall outlet. All the lit houses on even our largest display use fewer bulbs than our Christmas tree. We use all heavy duty extension cords and quality power strips to be on the safe side." • 'Just so you know!' June/July 2005 - Village D-Lights.

. . . Found my "Spirit of 56 On The Bay" shirt. Looks good, still fits - just so you know!



*This magical little gnome  
lives underground as you may know.  
The special magic that he brings  
Is helping our trees and flowers grow.*

*He surfaces every now and then.  
When you see him,  
good luck he'll bring,  
A reminder to appreciate nature  
in everything living thing.  
a.s waldrop*

- 'Little Magical Garden Gnome' - Linda took the picture in the *Essentia Health Gift Shop* here in Duluth, MN. She likes the Gnome waving (in the middle with the red hat).



- *Lemax Harvest Crossing*, new for 2022! 'Firewood For Sale;' It should be sitting on a street corner in our New England Village. \$6.99. 2.24in x 2.91in x 1.81in.. The sign says "Seasoned Firewood," I'm guessing that's a good thing. Lemax has many other 'wood chopping' accessories that would go well with this accessory.



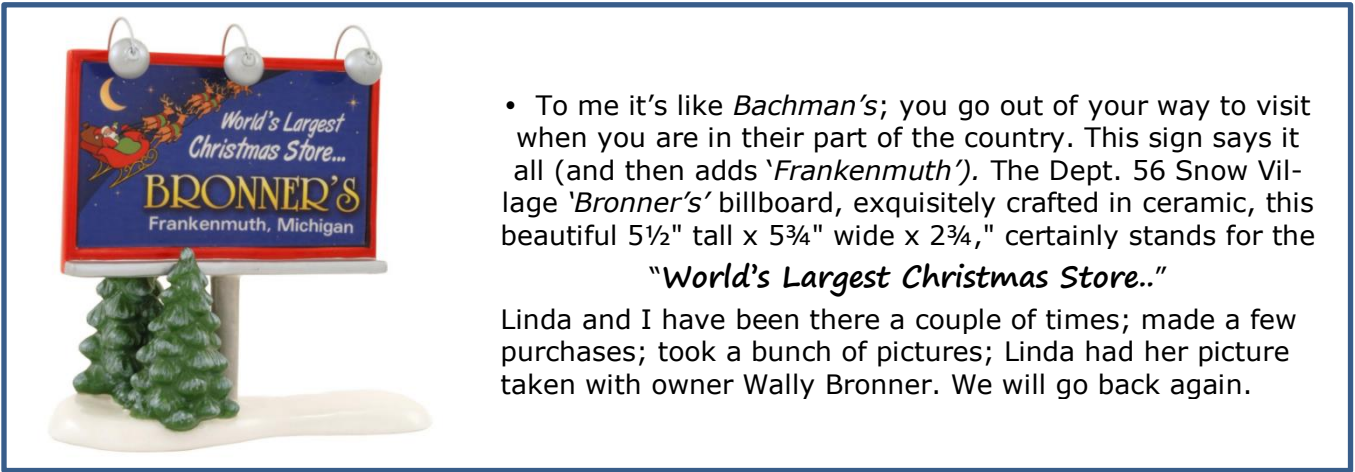
- ... "Prophecy class cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances" • Signs on-line
- ... "A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new." • Albert Einstein
- ... 'River City Villagers,' San Antonio, TX, **30th Anniversary** in April - congratulations!
- ... "If you wish good advice, consult your mother." • Fortune cookie

- A nice looking couple providing music on the corner. Colorful and unlike anything we have. If the base isn't too 'wide,' I think we could make good use of them. They were at: <https://kerstdorpclub.nl/2020/04/20/luville/> I believe it said Luville 2020.



- 'Santa's Elf Parade' - What could be better for a parade than two 'penguins,' four elves **and** Mr. and Mrs. Claus. *Lemax, Caddington Village*, 2022. Looks like fun for Christmas In The City, New England or even North Pole village's. H 3.31 x W 7.48 x D 1.18 inches. Oh yes, the elves are carrying gifts.

... From Italy, Villaging in Europe by Peppe Apuleo. "My thought is: The Christmas village is not a hobby, it is an extraordinary infinite passion." See his column on The Village Collector web site.



- To me it's like *Bachman's*; you go out of your way to visit when you are in their part of the country. This sign says it all (and then adds '*Frankenmuth*'). The Dept. 56 Snow Village '*Bronner's*' billboard, exquisitely crafted in ceramic, this beautiful 5½" tall x 5¾" wide x 2¾," certainly stands for the "*World's Largest Christmas Store..*"

Linda and I have been there a couple of times; made a few purchases; took a bunch of pictures; Linda had her picture taken with owner Wally Bronner. We will go back again.



- Dept. 56 says, "*Tie a Yellow Ribbon*" has long been a symbol of welcoming home our military." I remember a song (with that name) by *Tony Orlando and Dawn*, an American pop music group in the 1970s, What's the significance of tying a yellow ribbon? The yellow ribbon has long been a symbol of support for absent or missing loved ones. Introduced in January 2021. 11 in H x 4 in W x 4 in L. My thinking is to have maybe eight or ten of these Yellow Ribbon trees to line a portion of our parade route. If we decided we need a few more, I'm pretty sure we could find a few trees of our own and add a ribbon to them.

... "*To get respect from others, one must first give respect to others.*" • Fortune cookie

... Cheryl has a **big** collection of Christmas village items; much more than her husband is aware of. When he begins to ask questions on the amount, she said "*I'll get a **realtor calling card** that says 'little houses for sale.'*" I've met her husband, not sure he will believe that as a solution.



• At 4.45 inches tall, the '*Knight Bus*,' Harry Potter, should fit just fine in our display. We don't do a big display with Harry Potter, so might have to be part of *Christmas In The City*. The three decks, with an interesting color, it will be noticed. The ad says "*Welcome the Knight bus! Emergency transport for the stranded witch or wizard. Harry steps onto the bright purple bus full of sleeping wizards and asks to be taken to 'The Leaky Cauldron,' he is tossed around, stretched, and squished as the bus moves at impossible speed and fits into deceptively small spaces in between traffic in London.*" Introduced in April 2022. Made by Department 56.



- A model similar to the first Porsche I ever drove. It was not a Carrera, nor did it have advertising or numbers; but it was a 356. This one would be fun to have for my 'wish list' of real cars I **never** owned. I just couldn't spend all that money on a car without a local dealer. (I'm not very handy). <https://modelexpo-online.com/>

... As of July 4, 2022 [The Village Collector](http://thevillagecollector.com/) web has been visited **272,093** times by unique **175,958** visitors since May 20, 2017. <http://thevillagecollector.com/> New stuff all the time.



- Dept. 56 'Friends' TV show, village 3 piece set: 'Couch,' 'Fountain,' 'Central Perk Building' - Introduced in April 2022, release Dec 2022. I'm at a big disadvantage on these Dept. 56 Licensed Products. I saw them for the first time online (maybe Facebook); I can only find very basic info on the D56 web site; and, I never watched the TV show 'Friends'.



- "You will bring sunshine into someone's life." - "You will bring sunshine into someone's life." - Linda and I each received this fortune cookie message after the same meal; it must mean something. Notice the different logo on our fortune cookie packaging.



- The *D56 Club* shared an image of their **2022 accessory**. Check on their Forum for the details on the contest to name the piece (they already have some good, interesting, names). Yes, the contest has a prize. They will also start taking orders for this beautiful accessory. It will be of high quality, and made by the same manufacturer, who produced the 'Department 56 Flag Gift' and 'Santa's Jeep & Toy Trailer.' • The Jeep and Trailer arrived in the U.S. and have shipped to those who ordered the set. The folks really like them; images of many have been posted on different on-line locations. <https://d56club.com/> will take you to the club Forum. You will find much more info these items and a lot of other Dept. 56 stuff. Questions? look for the Global Moderator, Brian. Sorry, the contest ended on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.



- I'm pretty sure the *D56 Club* and the *National Council of 56 Clubs* each have upcoming **Zoom Meetings** scheduled; I just can't find the specifics.



... [Village D-Lights](#), Qtr. 1, 2022 was received at our home on April 21, 2022 – just so you know! - Yes, it was **Quarter 1**. I still wonder about the mailing date for Quarter 2. I have seen an image of the cover on Facebook.

... "If you want the rainbow, you have to tolerate the rain." • Fortune cookie



. . . The new U.S. Navy ship LSC 21 arrived in Duluth in May; several days later she was **officially commissioned** USS 'Minneapolis-Saint Paul' (LCS-21) and is a Freedom-class littoral combat ship of the United States Navy. The ship then left for its home, Naval Station Mayport, Florida. • A **new cruise ship**, the 'Viking-Octantis,' also visited our harbor in May. The 378 passenger (crew of 256) vessel was on her maiden cruise of several of the Great Lakes. More visits planned this season. • The cruise ship 'Ocean Navigator' visited us in June. Room for 202 guests, with a crew of 84.



• 'Funny Circus Themed Celebration' Not at all sure what size these items are; however it looks like many of them would make good background items for a circus – and, we 'do' a circus on a regular basis. Remember, we have over thirty clowns that need homes.  
<https://asubtlerevelry.com/unique-christmas-party-themes/>

. . . This 'SpongeBob SquarePants' is too large to be **real** in our display. Linda said that when she showed him to me after shopping at a *Dollar Store*. She suggested maybe in a parade. He's from *Nickelodeon*. They also have 'Patrick Star,' 'Stimpy J. Cat,' 'Ren Höek,' 'Arnold Shortman.' Note: SpongeBob is only 2 inches tall (but he is bulky 😊).



• My **thanks** to Bill Channell; he sent me a full size version of this certificate. It recognizes my five years on his 'The Village Collector' web site. I was very happy to have a location to post 'Just so you know!' It's been fun watching the growth and changes on TVC. Thanks again Bill, for inviting me to be part of your dream.

. . . 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.

• **1,228** is the number of words in this JSYK – not counting this line • **24** images •



• Thank you, David! Getting these issues in the 'off season' keeps us connected to our collective passion for our village displays. – Mary •