



# Village Views

“The voice of the San Diego Fifty-Sixers”  
Volume 16: Number 6 June 2009

## Cruising!



The Sage's and the Murphy's have returned from cruising onboard the Eurodam. We had calm seas and fair weather wherever we went. No pirate sightings! We had a great time. The 28 days seemed to zoom by. If you have a couple of hours to spend, just ask any of us “How was your cruise?”

**Here are the Murphy's from the Sage's and the Sage's from the Murphy's.**



A big, big thank you to Annie Dallow, Bob Dallow, and Shirley Bechtel for filling in for Lauren and I during our cruise. I understand Bob Dallow was pressed into service as the recording secretary for the Board meeting when Shirley couldn't make it due to illness. Good job Bob!

I can guarantee our program this month will be unique. Jim Murphy and I visited The Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg, Germany during our cruise. The Miniatur Wunderland is maybe the largest model train / village display in the world. Of course we took lots and lots of pictures and video. Come to June club meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM and enjoy the show. See you there!

*Jon*

**MINDLESS MUTTERING...**

*...by Bob O'Connor*

I've had several people come up to me and ask what the title of my editorial column has to do with collecting. After all this is a publication for a club based on collecting and displaying little lit buildings. Well it's like this; yes the San Diego Fifty Sixers is a club based on collecting, but who says it has to end with little lit buildings. I know I have collected a lot of very good friends and would hope the same is true of the rest of the members. Therefore I don't have to limit my column to that one subject. As for the actual title, if you have read everything I have written for this page, it becomes very clear that that is an appropriate name for my column.



Let me say here I very much appreciate the accolades bestowed upon me for all the blood sweat and tears I shed producing the Village Views each and every month. A small amount of the work, say about 90%, is done by other members of the club. A few names that come to mind are: Bob Dallow, Winnie Sage, each president during their term of office, and more recently Vern Brown. In the past Cathy Weber produced the Tipster column and several others have written timely articles. A couple that come to mind are current member Dave Bechtel and past member Nick Reid. If I failed to mention anyone remember the title of this column. I will occasionally use an article written by non-members and give credit at the time to those authors. I think it is important to extend credit to all the contributors because without them this would be a small and particularly boring publication.

Think about all the members working to produce the Village Views and imagine how much more effort it takes to keep one of the best (if not the best) Department 56 collector club operating. San Diego Fifty Sixers pat yourselves on the back for a job well done.



**Raffle Prizes**

**From Canterbury Gardens:**  
Let's Get Out of This Wind .....Mary Marshall

**From Casual Living:**  
\$50.00 Gift Certificate.....Mary Marshall

**From City Lights:**  
Village Accessories Steps.....Sue Jones  
Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal.....Sue Jones  
Checking the Ships Manifest.....Claire Caldwell

**From The Mole Hole:**  
Village Mountain Backdrop.....Sue Jones

**From the SD 56ers:**  
Barton's Holiday Greens.....Sue Jones

**From Unique Gifts:**  
\$25.00 Gift Certificate.....Karen Boynton

**From Michele & Vern Brown:**  
Miniature Ornament City.....Claire Caldwell

Door Prizes were raffle tickets this week due to a mix up in communications.  
The winners were three tickets each to: Norma McColley, Shirley Bechtel, Annie Dallow, and Art Bramfeld.

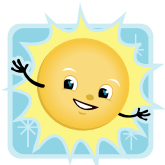
<b>SAN DIEGO FIFTY SIXERS' OFFICERS</b>		
President	Jon Sage	858-484-2533
Vice-President	Lauren Murphy	619-669-4949
Rec. Secretary	Annie Dallow	949-498-1356
Treasurer	Les Boynton	858-748-4291
Corr. Secretary	Shirley Bechtel	858-549-2077
Publicity	Marge Bramfeld	619-691-8424
Historian	Claire Caldwell	619-280-1048
Parliamentarian	Bob Dallow	949-498-1356
Hospitality	Mary Marshall	619-262-0351
Membership	Winnie Sage	858-484-2533
Past President	Karen Boynton	858-748-4291
Village Views	Bob O'Connor	760-789-3957

## Delay in Delivery

Five of the midyear releases will not be shipping this year. As a result of delays caused by the acquisition of Department 56 by Enesco, the following pieces will be included in next year's releases:

**Halloween** – *Voodoo Lodge* and *The Zombies*

**North Pole** – *The Reindeer Stables*, *Cupid & Comet* and the related accessories



*Little Miss Sunshine*

They say no news is good news, so here is a whole lot of good news. Hopefully with a little help from the members next month we can be a little specific about what is so good. No news, no news, no news, etc.

### Take advantage

I was a little remiss in my report last meeting on the NCC. As a member of the NCC the San Diego Fifty Sixers Club makes it possible for its member to acquire several buildings available only to select collectors. Several pins and accessories can also be purchased. The buildings currently available are: Jack's Umbrella Shop and Trader's Pin Shop.

As a member of the NCC you can take advantage of a specially priced cruise to Hawaii. Information on the cruise is to the right.

While on the subject of travel, you can make a trip to San Antonio Texas and attend the Region Eight Roundup. This is a gathering of Department collectors from around the world. If you have never been to one, a gathering is essentially a convention where there are seminars on all types of collection and display subjects. There is a market with many sales reps with non D56 accessories and tools to make your displays more complete, and many retired D56 buildings presented for your purchasing pleasure.

### A Spooktacular Event

August 21-23, 2009

Contact Linda Cook, 1-512-255-9982

[lindacook@region8roundup.org](mailto:lindacook@region8roundup.org)

[www.region8roundup.org](http://www.region8roundup.org)

## Aloha! From the NCC

We're off to Hawaii on the Golden Princess  
February 28 - March 14, 2010



<b>Itinerary:</b>	Feb 28	Los Angeles, CA	depart at 5 pm
	Mar 1-4	At Sea	
	Mar 5	Hilo, Hawaii	8 am - 6 pm
	Mar 6	Honolulu, Oahu	7 am - 11 pm
	Mar 7	Nawiliwili, Kauai	8 am - 5 pm
	Mar 8	Lahaina, Maui	7 am - 4 pm
	Mar 9-12	At Sea	
	Mar 13	Ensenada, Mexico	1 pm - 8 pm
	Mar 14	Los Angeles, CA	arrive at 7 am

<b>Cruise Rate:</b>	Inside room/category JJ (mid-ship deck 10; aft & forward deck 11)...	\$1,869.05*
	Oceanview room/category F (obstructed view/deck 8)...	\$2,069.05*
	Balcony room/category BC (mid-ship deck 11; aft & forward deck 12)...	\$2,719.05*
	Mini-suite/category AC (aft & forward deck 9)...	\$3,119.05*

*Other room categories, locations & prices may be available* *Call for details*

\*Rates are per person, based on double occupancy & availability, include port charges, taxes & fuel surcharge  
\*Fuel surcharge (\$126 or \$9 per person per day) is subject to change, even after deposit and/or final payment is made  
\*Airfare, transfers, travel insurance & tips are extra

#### NEW Princess Deposit Requirements (credit card preferred):

- Due within 48 hours of reservation
- Amount required per person is 20% of your cruise fare

**Cancellation:** Your deposit is fully refundable until November 30, 2009  
Cancellation penalties begin on December 1, 2009

**Final Payment:** Due November 30, 2009

**Limited availability!** Call NOW for best rates & stateroom choices.

Once the group allotment and rates are sold-out, the rates will be higher.

For more information and/or reservations, contact our cruise coordinators:

Tim or Lilia Kearney  
Great Escapes Cruises & Tours  
619 Woodbine Ct • Myrtle Beach SC 29579  
843-903-1578 or outside of SC: 877-903-1578  
Email: [GreatEscps@aol.com](mailto:GreatEscps@aol.com)



Join fellow collectors as we cruise to Hawaii to enjoy the Aloha Spirit.  
This is the 4th NCC cruise & we always have fun.  
So come along!

CST # 2059949-01  
Great Escapes Cruises & Tours is proud to be an Associate Member of the NCC.

# Collectively Speaking

**...BY BOB DALLOW**

These are difficult economic times. In our daily lives we encounter empty storefronts shuttered auto dealers, and foreclosure signs in our

neighborhoods. Even our favorite collectible declared bankruptcy and has been acquired by a new company – Enesco. It probably means that most collectors will be much more circumspect when adding to their villages. But let’s enter the imaginary world; if you were to buy all of the new pieces in your favorite village, what would it cost you? The following figures include the new releases announced both in December 2008 and last month.

<u>Village</u>	<u># Buildings</u>	<u># Accessories</u>	<u>\$ Buildings</u>	<u>\$ Accessories</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
<i>Snow Village</i>	9	13	\$859.00	\$321.50	<b>\$1180.50</b>
<i>Dickens’ Village</i>	9	11	\$959.00	\$284.50	<b>\$1243.50</b>
<i>New England Village</i>	4	4	\$359.00	\$112.50	<b>\$471.50</b>
<i>Alpine Village</i>	2	3	\$205.00	\$97.50	<b>\$302.50</b>
<i>Christmas in the City</i>	6	5	\$604.00	\$139.50	<b>\$743.50</b>
<i>North Pole</i>	8	13	\$754.00	\$307.50	<b>\$1061.50</b>
<i>Halloween</i>	5	29	\$555.00	\$760.50	<b>\$1315.50</b>

Let’s take a more in-depth look at some of those numbers. First, no village released more buildings this year than it did last year. Snow Village, Dickens’ Village, Christmas in the City, and North Pole all had fewer releases, and the other villages remained the same as 2008. Even more significant, this is the first time in several years that no village has reached double figures in new building releases. What about the dollar figures? In total costs, no village showed a significant increase, and in a couple of cases the dollar savings should bring a smile to your wallet.

Snow Village	- \$378.50	Alpine Village	+ \$15.00
Dickens’ Village	+ \$59.50	Christmas in the City	- \$53.00
New England	+ \$89.10	North Pole	- \$268.00
	Halloween	+ \$55.00	

In the world of accessories, only Halloween had more new accessories this year than last. There is no significant cost difference between the two years. If anything, it might be said that the average price of each accessory increased minimally from 2008 to this year. Among the more expensive accessories were two horse drawn pieces – *Crowntree Coach* [DV] (left) and *Loading the Cutter For Christmas* [NEV] (right).





If you were wondering what the most expensive new piece in each village is, wonder no more!

Snow Village	Dancing Lights House	\$145.00
Dickens' Village	Glensford School	\$95.00
New England Village	Pembroke Textile Mill	\$115.00
Alpine Village	Christkindl Church	\$125.00
Christmas in the City	Union Station	\$140.00
North Pole	North Pole Palace	\$150.00
Halloween	Gravelly Estate	\$130.00

## Speaking of \$\$\$

There really isn't a secondary market any more. Long before the current economy destroyed it, the Internet had already mortally wounded it. Before IRA's plummeted, the retirement accounts of folks who bought a half dozen *Santa's Workshops* had bottomed out. There's always eBay, but here there is no logic. If you want money instantly, you sell low; if you're in Fantasyland, you ask for a lot...and wait. Last week I saw *All Saints Church* in the City on eBay at prices ranging from \$19 to \$299. Which one would you bid on?

If you are looking for a ballpark figure, your best source is Village D-Lites. In its inaugural issue last year, it listed ranges of prices for secondary sales. The data which follows uses the higher end of those ranges. But remember sellers will always want more, and desperate sellers will take much less.

Here are the "Top 20" values listed for retired pieces among the Heritage Villages. Snow Village is excluded because it has a unique earlier history. It began eight years before any of the Heritage villages, and 45 of those early pieces (pre 1984) are listed at over \$300, but only five in the last 25 years exceed that plateau, with the highest being \$355 for 1998's *Uptown Motors Ford*.

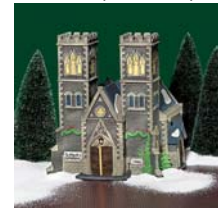
<u>Name, Village, Years</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Name, Village, Years</u>	<u>Value</u>
Dickens' Village Mill (1985-86)	4725	Kenilworth Castle – DV (1987-88)	450
Norman Church – DV (1986-87)	3000	Jacob Adams Farmhouse – NEV (1986-89)	425
Cathedral Church of St. Mark – CIC (1991-92)	1625	Cathedral of St. Paul – HL (2001)	425
Chesterton Manor – DV (1987-88)	915	Dickens' Village Church (1985-89)	395
Smythe Woolen Mill – NEV (1987-88)	910	Alpine Village Church (1987-91)	395
Belle's House (Spec. Ed.) – DV (2004)	800	Stone Cottage – DV (1985-88)	390
Sutton Place Brownstones – CIC (1987-89)	700	Ada's Bed & Boarding House – NEV (1988-91)	355
Palace Theater – CIC (1987-89)	675	Fezziwig's Ballroom – DV (2000)	345
Design Works North Pole (2001)	585	Tower of London – HL (1997)	345
Brightsmith...Jewellers – DV (2001)	450	Sherlock Holmes 221 Baker St. – DV (200-03)	345



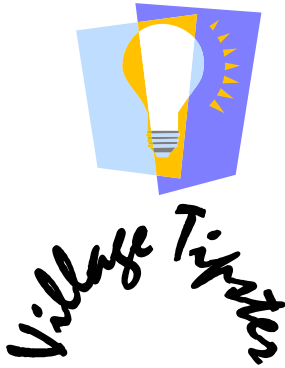
Dickens' Village Mill



Norman Church



Cathedral of St. Mark



### KITCHEN MAGIC PART THREE

In this third article in the series, we are still in the kitchen, adding more items that can be used to organize, create, or enhance your village display.

**Use different colors and textures of herbs and spices** in small bowls, baskets, or other containers to place near the Spice Merchant, Spice and Copper Colonnade, or any of the general stores to add detail to your display.

Plan to have a water feature in your display? How about **adding cattails**? Start by using some straw from a natural broom. Coat the last ½ to ¾ inch with white glue, and let it dry for a few minutes (Thin the glue with equal parts water and add a drop of dish soap. The soap will allow the glue to spread evenly.) Roll the glued end in cinnamon (You may need to do this more than once to get the right look).

Cut the straw to the right length for your village, and stick it in the Styrofoam at the edge of the water feature. Use additional pieces of straw to give the look of reeds. Use lichen at the base of the reeds and cattails to complete the look.

Maybe a **garden hedge maze** could work in this year's display. Green Scotch Brite-type scourers can be used to make great hedges. Home Depot sells these scouring pads (no sponge just the scourer) in a package of ten or twelve. Each pad measures about 5" by 10;" so you get a lot of hedge material in a package. The material is easy to cut with scissors or a utility knife. The pads are a little thin to be a hedge but can be glued together with hot glue to make any thickness you might want. Design your maze on a heavy piece of paper or mat board; then hot glue the pieces to your design. You can spray the maze with canned snow to give a winter appearance.

**Kitchen string** has a lot of potential in a display. Gray spray paint will give the string a look of braided cable. The cable can be strung between bollards (metal push pins) and used around bays or other areas to provide a safety barricade. By spraying a small coil of the string, a straw

color so it resembles rope. Hang the "rope" on a corral fence. Place it on a wharf, pier, or any other location where a rope might belong.

North Pole Village, with all the candy related pieces, is a perfect place to **use candies to enhance the village**. M&M's can be used for paths and walkways or be stacked around the base of a tree to make a border (Miniature ones work best.). Gum drops can be used to make fences. Use small candy canes along a street and string lights between them. Round peppermint candies can be put into the Styrofoam as stepping stones. Ribbon candy makes a marvelous fence. The possibilities seem endless in the North Pole.

Red and green **cake decorating sprinkles** can be scattered under bare branch trees to look like two different colors of apples on the ground around New England Village Chapman's Cider House.

Next month will bring a couple of more kitchen projects, plus a few ideas about organization and storage. Next month we will also begin the journey through the rest of the house (including the garage).....

VERN

### **What are you waiting for?**

It's never too early nor too late to decide how extensive you want your display to be. There are several basic ways to display your village pieces.

One very impressive and often overwhelming method is to devote a large area (sometimes an entire room or even a separate building) to showing a large percentage or even your complete village in a single all inclusive display. This type of display can be built in sections so as to not overwhelm you. (Save that feeling for your viewers.) The best way is to draw or list areas to work on individually to be joined with other sections as you proceed. For example; when building a city you can do a block at a time complete with street lights and traffic signals. It is of course best to light and test each section as you go along. For a countryside scene work each sight of interest as it comes so details can be incorporated without climbing over other areas. If you are including a train or water construct, these things need to be built and tested in the benchwork stage, that is to say before any details are completed. When creating a large display it is easy to overlook details because the entire village scene is impressive, but trust me in this, you won't be satisfied in taking shortcuts by eliminating details and your sometimes critical collector friends won't be fooled.

Another way to display is in vignettes. To me this is a more difficult method because in a small area the details become critical in making what is literally a close-up of a part of a village. Quite often this is the only way to enjoy your collection in a home that doesn't have a large area available (or you have other plans for such area.) Of course the very thing that makes a vignette difficult makes it enjoyable to create. Attention to detail is paramount and many collectors are very detail oriented. A successful vignette can hold immense pride of accomplishment for the creator and be a wonder to behold for the viewer.

Another way of using your village pieces, usually in vignettes is to theme them around holidays throughout the year. Department 56 has for years been making holiday specific buildings and accessories, but with a little thought and imagination almost any building can become holiday specific. For example I use Italianate Villa in my Halloween display (surrounded with black cats, ghosts and skeletons.) While on the idea of themes, they don't have to be holiday themes. One collector took a small part of Snow Village and created a football rally scene (Depicting OU or maybe it was Nebraska.) Another SD 56er very successfully converted the Dickens Village into a movie set for Harry Potter. Like I said, thought and imagination can create a wonderful little scene.

Speaking of holiday specific, Department 56 has come up with a village within a village within a village. Halloween is a specific themed village subset of Snow Village and now a subset for Halloween is created called Legends of Sleeping Hallow-een.

The year is half gone, let your thoughts and imagination flow and create, create, create.



# San Diego Fifty-Sixers

PO Box 23285  
San Diego, CA 92193

Our next meeting will be on the **THIRD** Wednesday of the month, June 17<sup>th</sup>

June						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

At the Sharp Spectrum Center Court  
8695 Spectrum Center Court  
6:45 social, meeting at 7:15



Directions: From either I-805 or I-163 take the Clairemont Mesa exit and proceed east, turn right onto Kearny Villa Road, at Spectrum Center Blvd. turn left. Sharp Spectrum Center Court is the first right after the Marriott Courtyard. When entering the Sharp property the parking lot is through the gate to the right.

The **San Diego Fifty Sixers** are members of the National Council of 56 Clubs



SAN DIEGO FIFTY SIXERS		
Calendar of Events - 2009		
June	17	Club Meeting / <b>Third</b> Wednesday- 6:30pm / Special presentation by Jim Murphy & Jon Sage
July	15	Club Meeting / <b>Third</b> Wednesday- 6:30pm / Games
August	26	Club Meeting / <b>Fourth</b> Wednesday- 6:30pm / Pot Luck & Power Point Presentation
September	23	Club Meeting / <b>Fourth</b> Wednesday- <b>7pm</b> / To be announced
October	28	Club Meeting / <b>Fourth</b> Wednesday- <b>7pm</b> / Annual Swap & Sell
November	18	Club Meeting / <b>Third</b> Wednesday- 6:30pm / Games
December		Open Houses All Month
Please check the Calendar regularly. These programs are subject to change.		
The board meets each month on the Wednesday before the regular club meeting. Any member is welcome to attend the board meeting. Meetings start at 5:30 pm at the Miramar Café, 7128 Miramar Road		

## Cookie Elves - June

Sheri Struthers, Carol Orlando, Sue Jones, Sue O'Connor