



Village Views

“The voice of the San Diego Fifty-Sixers”
Volume 16: Number 7 July 2009

Thank You

I feel I don't give enough thanks to all the club members that help to make this the best Department 56 collecting club in the world.

First, I want to thank **Mary Marshall** for her 16 years of service as our meeting hostess. **Fred Orlando** is another 16 year veteran as our meeting greeter. As our corresponding secretary, **Shirley Bechtel** sends out thank you cards, get well cards, and any other club correspondence. **Les Boynton**, our treasurer, has made many great improvements to our bookkeeping system. **Vern Brown** has provided us with some kitchen magic in his Tipster articles. **Marge Bramfeld** serves on the board as publicity chair and has been the Lighting Up Lives chairperson for the last five or six years. **Claire Caldwell** is our club historian. Each month she brings the club library to the meeting, sets it up, and gives ideas to the membership. **Annie Dallow** is the club recording secretary. She not only takes all meeting minutes, she helps with the raffle and she keeps me “on track”. As parliamentarian, **Bob Dallow** makes sure our meetings are run correctly. He also authors all our club bylaw amendments and writes a monthly article for the newsletter. **Lauren Murphy** is our Vice President. She plans the meeting programs, plans birthday parties, and runs the raffle. I don't know what I would do without Lauren. During **Bob O'Connor's** newsletter editorship, he has saved our club money by reducing the number of printed newsletters and replacing them with electronic delivery. **Winnie Sage** has taught us many display techniques with her monthly “Village ABC's” tipster articles. **Millie Warner**, our “Little Miss Sunshine,” not only compiles a monthly report about how members are doing, she also keeps us updated during the month with e-mail.

I also want to thank all the members that come to Children's hospital every year to help build the displays for the hospital. I know your displays help families escape from their reality, if only for a few minutes.

I don't want to forget the members that have served on the board or committee at some time. It's their leadership through the years that has made the San Diego Fifty-Sixers the best club in the world. What would our meetings be without goodies? Thanks to the Cookie Elves. Thanks, too, to the members who pick up raffle prizes each month – **Sylvia Heitzmann**, the **Warners**, the **Dallows**, and the **Bechtels**.

Last but not least, I want to thank our sponsors. **Canterbury Gardens**, **Casual Living**, **City Lights**, **The Mole Hole**, and **Unique Gifts** have all continued to support us even in these tough economic times. Please remember these vendors when you decide to purchase.

This month we'll all be treated to another round of games by Bob Dallow. The meeting is early in the month again so make sure to mark your calendars for **July 15th at 6:30PM**. See you

there.

Jon



LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

Fred Orlando just had cataract surgery last Thursday and is doing fine.

Michele Brown and Dennis Morgan both retired this June after many years with the San Diego school district.

Phyllis Oatman has numbness and pain again in her wrist/hand and has an appointment with her MD.

Les Boynton is doing much better; he has lost 16 lbs. and getting stronger and taller every day.

Dorothy Dees is doing wonderfully with her new therapy in La Jolla; improving daily.

Maggie Storey has blood clots in her lungs.

GRAB YOUR CALENDARS.....

We, as a Club and as individual purchasers, are lucky to have such wonderful retail sponsors. Here are some of the special events that they have planned for the rest of the year. These events will give you a chance to see new village pieces and other holiday decorations. Maybe you will find that item that you must have. Maybe you will get inspiration for your own display. In the last few years, we have found techniques in retail displays that we just had to incorporate into our own.

Canterbury Gardens and Gifts in Escondido will be holding two Open Houses in the coming months. The Halloween Open House will be held on Thursday, August 6th from 10 AM to 5 PM. The Christmas Open House will be held on Thursday, September 24th from 5 PM to 9 PM. Dave Hansen tells me that he already has his village completed. Also, Canterbury Gardens holds classes for making decorations. Check out their website for dates and times.

Casual Living in San Bernardino will be holding its annual Open House plus Swap and Sell on Saturday, November 7th from 9 AM to 5 PM. It is well worth the trip to see the current Department 56 items as well as all of those older pieces that can be found at the Swap and Sell.

City Lights in San Diego will be hosting a group from the Village Addicts Club of the LA area on September 26th. Brian says that purchases will be tax free on that day for members of the VAA group and for our own SD 56ers' club members. The City Lights Open House, which will be held on Saturday, October 24th from 10 AM to 3 PM, will have a number of artists signing pieces. These artists include Barbara Lund for Department 56 and Bill Young from Harbour Lights, a former Club sponsor. Brian says that his store is carrying 5 or 6 new lines and that he is getting in lots of Halloween village.

The above events are always great fun. They are a chance to meet other collectors and artists, to find display ideas, to purchase new pieces for your village, and, perhaps, an opportunity to find older pieces that you have wanted. Put these on your calendar. See you there.

Collectively Speaking

...by Bob Dal I ow

Through the years that most of us have been collecting villages, there have been a great number of changes in the industry. In my twentieth year as mayor of a miniature city, the most obvious change in my collection is its growth from a single street to a major metropolis of over 150 buildings.

When I look back on two decades of Department 56 collecting, I see three major changes. First, several ownership changes have taken place. Bachman was the original parent company; today it is Enesco with several other owners along the way. The second change is the enhanced quality of the product. Despite new leadership, the consistent designers have provided us with more creative, detailed buildings. Third, the death of the secondary market has clearly established what we have – a hobby, not an investment. Those who collected just to make a buck have fallen by the wayside; those who remain are truly addicted.

I want to provide another overview of this history by looking back fifteen, ten, and five years ago in the July-August issues of *the Village Chronicle*. Pictures that accompany the following paragraphs are of the same buildings that appeared on the covers of those issues. It is only a coincidence that each image is from Dickens' Village.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO – JULY 1994



Whittlesbourne Church was the cover boy for this 24-page black and white issue. The lead story was about the new midyear releases. Those releases have always been a staple of the July issue. In 1994 the underwhelming totals were seven new buildings and three accessories; four of the ten were in Snow Village. But equally highlighted were the new releases in a variety of other collections – Snowbabies, Merry Makers, All Through The House, and Upstairs Downstairs Bears. In fact, several of the articles also focused on those groups rather than the villages.

What else was highlighted? A new collection – Disney Parks Village. It would be gone before the next five years elapsed. The tenth anniversary of Dickens' Village was recognized with an article and photo of the *Postern*, the special event piece. The title "When is a non-Limited Not a Limited?" piqued readers' interests, especially because this was an era when limited editions were particularly attractive on the secondary market.

Patsy Fryberger, the long-time Snow Village expert, was already a staff member, writing in this issue about ceramic buildings and the real structures they were based on. In addition to her extensive research, she also relied on her personal jaunts throughout the Midwest. Other articles featured the *Village Express Vans*, a variety of fences, brownstones, and cold cast porcelain miniature buildings.

Tucked away in a corner of the Classified Ads was a San Diego Fifty-Sixers connection. Charter member Adrienne Tedrow was looking for collectors interested in trading pieces.

TEN YEARS AGO – JULY 1999

Five years later, the full color periodical had more than doubled to an appropriate 56 pages. *Heathmoor Castle* graced the cover, and, while midyear pieces dominated, they were not the lead story. Not only was the number of pages doubled, but so was the number of new releases. A total of 25 pieces included 11 buildings and 14 accessories. These were the years of big numbers as collections grew by leaps and bounds. The largest new introduction was not only big but tall and expensive. *The Times Tower* cost \$175, twice as much as any other building.



The San Diego Fifty-Sixers connection in this issue came right up front with my lead article on the City, "Be A Sport," as well as the regularly featured puzzles I created for over ten years. Speaking of the City, this issue revealed that the previous year's gift set, *Scottie's Toy Shop*, had the best sales record of any building in the company's history. Another new collection, Monopoly buildings, debuted and would be followed by a quick demise.

Two other buildings deserve special note. At the Bachman's Gathering in August, Department 56 released the first numbered limited edition in the 22-year history of Snow Village. The *Original Bachman Homestead* was limited to 7500 pieces and cost \$75. Another new release was also quite notable. In North Pole, *Marie's Doll Museum* was introduced. Named after Marie Osmond, the entertainer, North Pole collector, and doll designer, it was packaged in one of the new full color boxes with a picture of the future "Dancing With the Stars" swooner on the box.

FIVE YEARS AGO – JULY 2004



It was the twentieth anniversary of Dickens' Village and the cover celebrated it with a picture of Dickens' Birthplace. The peak of the passion had been reached, and the number of pages had decreased to 36. But the number of midyear pieces was at its zenith with 31 buildings and 27 accessories. Those numbers are misleading, for the City totally skewed the figures with 12 buildings and ten accessories in the Ballpark series. Stadia were joined by refreshment stands, souvenir shops, and taverns. The lead story was a display article, "The Lazy Days of Summer."

Two new pieces (or was it only one?) in Dickens' Village caught readers' eyes. For the second time, Department 56 offered two versions of the same building to US and Canadian collectors. The *Red Lion Pub* and *Canadian Pub* are the same building with color variations and differing flags. The Canadian version was only available north of the border.

This was the year that California Gold was held in Hollywood. Many of us attended, and the club entered the display competition. What about the San Diego connection...was it still strong? You bet it was! I was still writing the Christmas in the City articles, and I had company. Winnie Sage had taken on the responsibility of New England Village, and Cathy Weber was the North Pole scribe. If you added Holy Land writer Carolyn Bogart, a former member of my faculty in New York, half of the village articles were connected to our club. It was a wonderful ride, and one I suspect that most of us miss. Time, though, marches on...and our villages keep growing. Welcome on board, Enesco!



KITCHEN MAGIC PART FOUR

This month, we will end the kitchen magic and begin the magic journey through the rest of the house. The idea remains the same. Find things in the house to help make our village that much more special.

If you have been in a forest, you have probably noticed the **moss growing on the north side of the trees**. You can have the same look in your village. Use bare branch trees or any tree where the trunk is visible. Apply glue to one side of the tree trunks, and dust the glued area with a green ground spice. When you place the trees, make sure they all face the same direction. Everyone viewing your village will know which way is north.

Want **some motion in your display**? If you have Starbuck's Coffee or Caribou Coffee Shop, the following might work for you. You will need a toy (metal or plastic) coffee pot (2-cup size or less), a

toy coffee cup, aquarium pump, plastic tubing, and a container to use as a reservoir. The idea would be to place the pump in the reservoir (under the display), and pump coffee-colored liquid into the coffee pot. The coffee pot should be at an angle so that the liquid will pour into the cup. The cup should have a hole in the bottom to allow the liquid to flow back into reservoir. By putting some computer graphics on the pot and cup, you would have an advertisement for the coffee shop. I picture this being above and behind the building.

And finally, some thoughts on **organizing and storing** using items from the kitchen. Many of us no longer keep the packaging that comes with the non-breakable trees. We have run out of storage room. Plastic zip bags work great to store these trees. If you store by type and by size of tree, finding the right tree will be a snap. Large spice containers can be used to store your ground cover material. (If the containers have a shaker top, even better.) Coffee cans are also useful for storing bulk items. Ziploc or Glad disposable containers have lots of potential. I store small quantities of paint or thinned glue in these containers.

Moving out of the kitchen with no particular room in mind will provide us a lot more items to use to enhance a village scene.

Dental floss can be used to make **clothesline**. If you have dental tape, you will need to twist it before using it as a clothesline. Because the floss is waxed, it will hold the twists. In Christmas in the City, you can use the clothesline between buildings above an alley (Tacky Wax should work to attach it to each building). Cut out some small rectangular pieces of cloth and attach to the clothesline to complete the look of towels or linens drying on the line. In other villages, use toothpicks to construct clothesline poles, and attach the dental floss to the poles. Cut out clothing shapes from paper or cloth; attach them to the clothesline and the scene is set. The clothesline could work in any village that has houses. If you don't want to do a clothesline, you could just drape some rectangular pieces of fabric over a fence to look like the airing of rugs, blankets, or whatever.

Next month, we'll continue the search through the house for items that will help enhance the look of your village display...

VERN

The Wonderland

Last month, Jim Murphy and Jon Sage gave a slide presentation about *The Miniatur Wunderland*, which they visited in Hamburg Germany. Jon promised some additional information, which is included in this article. You can visit the Wunderland on your computer by going to their web site.

www.miniatur-wunderland.com

Once you get to the web site, scroll down a bit. You will see six pictures. Click on the picture (shown to the right) titled **IMAGEVIDEO**. This will give you a 4 minute introduction to the Wunderland.



Click the picture (shown to the left) titled **EXHIBIT** to get more information about the Wunderland. It is at this location you can find out about the technology, the different sections of the Wunderland, and more videos.

Click on the picture shown to the right titled **PICTURES** to go to the photo gallery. Here you will see many, many photos of the Wunderland.



Have fun! Maybe you'll discover something you can do in your next village display.

San Diego Fifty-Sixers

PO Box 23285
San Diego, CA 92193

Our next meeting will be on the
Third Wednesday of the month,
July 15th

JULY						
			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	31	



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.

At the Sharp Spectrum Center Court
8695 Spectrum Center Court
6:30 social, meeting at 7:00

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



SAN DIEGO FIFTY SIXERS		
Calendar of Events - 2009		
July	15	Club Meeting / Third Wednesday – 6:30 PM / Games by Dr. Dallow
August	6	Canterbury Gardens' Halloween Open House 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
August	26	Club Meeting / Fourth Wednesday – 6:30 PM / Pot Luck & Open House Power Point
September	23	Club Meeting / Fourth Wednesday – 7 PM / To be announced
September	24	Canterbury Gardens' Christmas Open House 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
September	26	VAA visit to City Lights / Purchases tax free
October	24	City Lights' Holiday Open House 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
October	28	Club Meeting / Fourth Wednesday – 7 PM / Annual Swap and Sell
November	7	Casual Living's Open House / Swap and Sell 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
November	18	Club Meeting / Third Wednesday – 6:30 PM / 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 Miramar Café, 7128 Miramar Road		

Cookie Elves for July:
Lauren Murphy, Phyllis Newton, Janice Taylor, Norma McColley

