



Village Views

“The voice of the San Diego Fifty-Sixers”
Volume 16: Number 10 October 2009

A Great Time of Year



Winnie and I just got back from a trip to The Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia. As you can see the colors are breathtaking this time of year. We liked them so much; we're going to have a "fall color" section in our display this year. Luckily, Department 56 has several fall color pieces.



One morning, while enjoying breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Front Royal, Va. , I mentioned to Winnie that I had been thinking of our 2009 display, and I had come up with a way to do "rolling hills" in our village. Winnie said that she had been thinking the exact same thing. What we discovered was that she was planning a specific scene, and I was planning an over all scheme with no specific scene in mind. It just shows how it takes more than one point of view, or skill set to produce a successful display. I think Winnie and I complement each other very well.

I'm sorry to have to report that the boys' team lost to the girls' team in the first ever San Diego Fifty-Sixers' Real Time Display Smack Down. I take full responsibility for the loss. My team did a great job.

We are in for a treat at this month meeting. Jim Murphy will be giving us his presentation from the gathering in San Antonio, Texas this year. If you have any questions about how to power your display, don't miss this meeting. We also will be holding our annual Swap & Sell after Jim's presentation. Our meeting will be on the **28th of October at 7:00PM**. See you there.

Jon

MINDLESS MUTTERING...

...by Bob O'Connor

I believe everyone has heard Jim Murphy has been placed on injured reserve which prevents him from leading off our open house season this year. We will miss his and Lauren's Halloween extravaganza but we won't let it damper the rest of the season. In the lead off spot we will have our all star village hitters Bob and Annie Dallow and they will be followed by an all pro lineup. Bob Dallow will have the rotation in his column. There is always room for a rooky or two and returning former players are always welcome. Come on, try out, we have a small team this year and have lots of room for aspiring amateurs.



Last month we tried to get everyone in the displaying mood with a little team competition. Boys against the girls. If you were there you know the outcome if you missed the meeting you will be left wondering who won. Actually the results are on page three, but as a male display creator I can tell you the vote of the judges was inevitable

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RAFFLE PRIZES

Canterbury Gardens
 Baby Dolls 1st Check UP.....Jim Murphy
 Hope for the Future.....Jim Murphy

Casual Living
 \$50.00 Gift Certificate.....Michele Brown

City Lights
 Village Landscapes Trees.....Jim Murphy
 Mm Mm GoodWinnie Sage
 The Life of the Party.....Jim Murphy

Mole Hole
 Poultry MarketLauren Murphy
 The Fire Brigade.....Bill Hohnhorst

SD 56ers
 Village Animated Track.....Jim Murphy

Unique Gifts \$25.00 Gift Certificate...Donna Poole

DOOR PRIZES – Lisa Johnson

D56 Tote Bag. Jonathan Sage; Halloween Mask, Millie Warner; Spooky Snout Mug, Michele Brown; Frankenstein Figure, Lauren Murphy; "I Want My

Mummy" baby onesie. Winnie Sage; Krinkles Snowman and Child figures, Alan Hamel; Snowflake Snow Globe, Carol Orlando; Let's Give It a Whirl Snowbaby, Sharon Swildens; Swan Box, Jim Murphy; Split Rock Lighthouse, Cathy Heitzmann; Girl on a Rock California Gold event piece, Bob O'Connor; "Little Monkey" Plaque, Pat Harriman; "Thank You" Plaque, Norma McColley; Ale Plate, Linda Morgan; Bubble Ornament, Dave Bechtel

SAN DIEGO FIFTY SIXERS' OFFICERS		
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

Cookie elves for October are as follows:

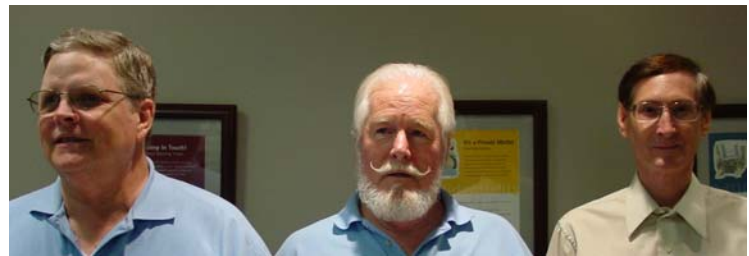
Carol Orlando, Norma McColley, Michele Brown, Sue O'Connor

Smack Down Uplifting

Our little display competition was well received by all the members present. Only the members asked to participate knew who the teams were until the starting bell. Both teams were supplied with the same buildings, accessories and supplies. They had thirty minutes (I think it ended up stretching to forty) to complete their display and a team of judges then selected the winner.

To the right are the buildings each team had to include in their display.

The teams were, Girls: Winnie Sage, Sue Jones, and Betty Gibson. The boys were represented by Jon Sage, Chick Storey, and Alan Hamel



Of course no match is complete without the cheerleaders. I'm not sure which team this group was cheering for but they contained their enthusiasm very well.



The boy's entry was obviously well thought out and the unique design was completed with dispatch and a flair of artistic talent. It's a wonder to behold.

The poor over stressed girls were only able to put together the winning display.

I think there may be a rematch coming!



Collectively Speaking

...BY BOB DALLOW

Often when I sit down to write this column, I hope to be able to inform you about new pieces or events in the world of Department 56. Not this

month. This time around I'm the one posing the questions, and hopefully you'll join in by thinking of responses.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? Once upon a time in Montreal the hottest items in divorce settlements and acrimonious estate challenges were season tickets for the NHL's Canadiens. What's hot now? If you do much browsing on eBay, it's amazing how many village pieces are listed as being from estate sales. I think we understand that. Lord knows what will happen to Cityscape once our personal adapters are disconnected. None of our kids have expressed an interest, contending that you actually **can** have too many trees. And several of you have revealed similar sentiments in your families. Some really big garage sales lie ahead.

HOW LOUD IS TOO LOUD? I've been trying to decide what the most annoying sound of 2009 is. I finally chose Baskin-Robins commercial that features high-volume chanting of "Ice cream and cake." But a close second would be a Halloween display where all of the creaking, clanging, moaning pieces are doing their thing simultaneously. Thank heavens for Jim Murphy's computer-generated program that enables onlookers to enjoy each ghostly noise in a sequential manner.

ARE YOU READY FOR OPEN HOUSE SEASON? Detailed below you will find the listings for this year's open houses. Full directions will appear in next month's newsletter. I would like to think that this is a partial list because some of you who are on the fence may hop down and open the gate for your curious fellow collectors. Send me an email at lazysundaze@aol.com or call 949-498-1356 to schedule your own special event. Refreshments would certainly be appreciated, but in these tough economic times, don't let that be what stops you from sharing your displays.

~PRELIMINARY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE~

Saturday, Nov. 21	2:00 - 7:00	Annie/Bob Dallow	Susan G. Komen For The Cure
Sunday, Nov.22	2:00 - 6:00	Sue/Bob O'Connor	UCSD Burn Center
Saturday, Dec. 5	4:00 – 8:00	Mary Marshall/Betty Roberts	UCSD Burn Center
Sunday, Dec. 6	4:00 – 8:00	Patty/Phil Burdick	Scrapbook Royalty
Saturday, Dec. 12	4:00 - 9:00	Winnie/Jon Sage	Prostrate Cancer Foundation
Sunday, Dec. 13	4:00 - 8:00	Sheri/Dave Struthers	Children of Fallen Soldiers
Saturday, Dec. 19	4:00 - 8:00	Shirley/Dave Bechtel	American Cancer Society
Sunday, Dec. 20	6:00 - 8:00	Sylvia/Kathy Heitzman	Rancho Coastal Humane Soc.

WHO WANTS YOU? We do. While only eight open houses are currently scheduled, that does not mean that EVERY club member can't participate. As every past host or hostess can tell you, the guests we most want to see are our fellow club members. You are the only ones who can truly appreciate the hours of work that went into a display. You are the only ones who will understand the complex wiring that no one sees under the tables. Friends and neighbors visit, nod at the complex setup, and start discussing family issues or neighborhood gossip. That's not why we invited them! This is not a contest to see which open house has the most club members visit. We all take pride in our efforts and want to share them. Please try to attend every open house. See if you can work out a "rain date" if the scheduled date conflicts with your dog's obedience class or your polar bear swim. Be there!

MORE NEW RELEASES? The continuing series of anniversary pieces in Dickens' Village, which is reissuing the Original Set of Seven, has another new piece. As of October 1 you could acquire *Bean and Son Smithy Shop* for \$80, and a month later the related accessory, *Shoeing The Horse* will be available for \$28.50. This is the fifth piece in the series.

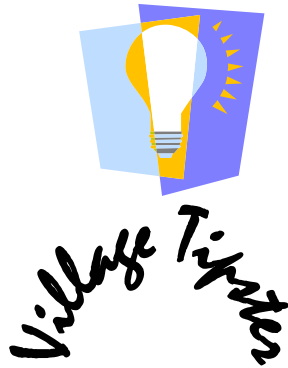
WHO WANTS YOUR EXTRA TOYS? Our annual Swap and Sell is scheduled for the October meeting. This is really a great opportunity both for buyers and sellers, but too many people just don't get involved. It's the safest place to buy...we all know each other! The prices are usually excellent. (Read that as very low.) Many people admit they are downsizing. Then why aren't you selling? Are you saving them for your kids? Go back and read "What Happens Next?" on the previous page. If you want to buy, why would you prefer faceless strangers with ridiculous shipping fees on eBay? It's a great deal for buyers! It's a great deal for sellers! Which are you?

WHAT'S YOUR VILLAGE GEOGRAPHY IQ? Department 56 has created several buildings that belong in specific cities. Here's a list of cities...which ones are included in the D56 atlas, and which ones were added just to confuse you?

Baltimore	Nashville	St. Paul
Boston	New York	San Francisco
Chicago	Orlando	Stillwater
Greenwich	Paris	Stratford
London	Philadelphia	Washington
Minneapolis	St. Louis	Windsor

The answer is really not too confusing. Every one of these cities has at least one building based on real buildings in their locale. If you're curious about one or more that might have stumped you, just ask me at the next meeting.

DO YOU REMEMBER THESE VILLAGES? In 2005 Department 56 introduced a highly successful new village, *A Christmas Story*, based on the classic film. It was originally available only at Sears, but is now in general distribution. Wayne Warner's display helps us to appreciate the quality of collection. But it's rare that new villages come on the scene. More often we have said good-bye to former favorites: *The Holy Land* (2006), *Seasons Bay* (2002), *North Pole Woods* (2002), *Disney Parks* (1996), *American Pride* (2005), *Historical Landmark* (2008), and *Literary Classics* (2003). And I wouldn't be surprised to see the list grow longer.



ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE – PART SEVEN

This article is the seventh in a series that suggests ideas for using everyday household items to help create or enhance your village displays. We started in the kitchen and have progressed to items found in other parts of the house. The series will wrap up with a visit to the garage.

Before you throw out that old **dried floral arrangement**, look at it with your village in mind. Many of the ‘fill’ type foliage can be used as trees. Other parts of the arrangement may yield some bushes. You may also be able to grind up some of the material to create a ground cover.

The **plastic backing** material for cross stitch or rug hooking can be used to make chain link fences. Cut the material on the diagonal and you end up with strips that resemble chain link fence. Using toothpicks with

the points cut off will provide you with fence posts to complete the look. Paint the fence gray or black, and you have a different looking fence for your village.

Cotton swabs provide us with smoke for our chimneys. Pulling the cotton off the end of the swab will give enough cotton for the job. Tacky wax the wisp of cotton to the top of a chimney, and it looks like smoke. If you have all your chimney smoke and flags going in the same direction, an observer won’t “need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows” (Bob Dylan).

The Rubber Duck Factory (North Pole Village) has rubber ducks floating in a hot tub outside the building. To augment the look, you could have more rubber ducks floating around the entire building. The idea is to **create a moat** that will have enough current to float the ducks around the building. You will need the following material:

Plastic sheeting
T Pins
Caulking, Gray Latex
Rocks, Gravel
Aquarium pump or small fountain pump
Disposable gloves

To start, your Styrofoam needs to have a thickness that allows

for a moat deep enough to completely submerge the pump. Line the moat with the plastic sheeting, being careful not to puncture the plastic below what will eventually be the water level. You can secure the edges of the plastic with t-pins outside of the moat. Cut off the excess plastic. Using a caulking gun, apply the caulking to the moat using your gloved hand to spread the caulking all over the moat. Press the gravel and/or rock into the caulking.

At this point, you need to wait until the caulking cures. I usually wait at least a week.

After the caulking cures, you are ready to place the pump. Make sure the pump inlet and outlet tubing are facing in opposite directions. This should create the current needed to propel your ducks around the building.

Special Note: Sept. 10 is moving day for the Browns. In looking back at the last few articles, I wish they had been better. Looking for a house, going on a month’s vacation, and packing for the move have taken a toll on my already limited creative ability. I expect or, at least, hope that the next articles will be an improvement. Next month, we will look into the garage to find more interesting items to help our displays.

You can't win if you don't try

Department 56 selects any number of pieces to retire so their numbers do not get too large thus they retain their value. This is what every collector wants. What we want is to make it into a game so we can win a prize or two. The prize is usually a building or accessory of the village the winners of the game collect. In the last few years there have not been very many entries and the same couple of members took the booty. This year you can change all that, but you only have a little over a week. Break out your Village Details book, hang a horseshoe over your office door, or over your kitchen table, or wherever you do your best guessing and fill in your list. May the best guesser win. Limited to year of production pieces do not count.



The contest rules state: pick twelve pieces (buildings or accessories) and list them below. You get one point for retired buildings and two points for retired accessories. The most points wins a retired building, second place gets a retired accessory. Your time starts... *NOW*.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____

Entries must be turned in at the October meeting to be counted. If you can't make it to the meeting, e-mail entries will be accepted until Wednesday October 28th . toolah@cox.net

Swap 'n' Sell in OCTOBER

A Swap 'n' Sell *FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY* will be held on October 28 at the conclusion of the regular meeting. We hope that everyone will participate - whether you have only one piece to sell or plan to reduce a whole village from your collection. But, we need your cooperation to complete our plans.

The following guidelines have been adopted by the Executive Board and **must** be adhered to by all participants.

- * All sale items must be Snowbaby or village-related. While they need not be produced by Dept. 56, this is **not** an all-collectible event.
- * Unlike traditional shows, pieces do not have to be retired. We are trying to help one another, both buyers and sellers.
- * While browsing may take place prior to the meeting, **no** sales (or informal agreements) may be made until the conclusion of the meeting.
- * Sellers will be charged a fee to cover extra custodial fees charged to the club by the facility.

PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

I plan to be one of the "sellers" at the club-sponsored Swap 'n' Sell at the October 28 meeting. I have read the attached guidelines and agree to abide by them. I understand that any violation of those guidelines will result in termination of this agreement.

Name _____

Approximate number of pieces for sale:
 _____ 0-10 [½ Table] Charge: \$ 5.00
 _____ 11- 20+ [1 Table] Charge: \$10.00

Maximum space per person: 1 Table

This form and the accompanying fee must be returned to the treasurer no later than the October club meeting.

San Diego Fifty-Sixers

PO Box 23285
San Diego, CA 92193

Our next meeting will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month, October 28th

October						
				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

At the Sharp Spectrum Center Court
8695 Spectrum Center Court
6:45 social, meeting at 7:00

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 / 2010		
October	28	Club Meeting /Fourth Wednesday- 7pm / Annual Swap & Sell
November	18	Club Meeting / Third 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		

Upcoming sponsor's open house / special events

City Lights: Holiday open house, Saturday October 24, 10:00am to 3:00pm

Casual Living: Holiday open house, Saturday November 7, 9:00am to 5:00 pm