

# **JUST SO YOU KNOW! . . . DECEMBER 18, 2020**

## **IDEAS, HINTS AND OPINIONS**

**BY DAVID SPEARS**

. . . Linda made a great Thanksgiving dinner- I'm always thankful! At supper time we just weren't hungry so - **ice cream only supper!** It was Linda's idea ☺

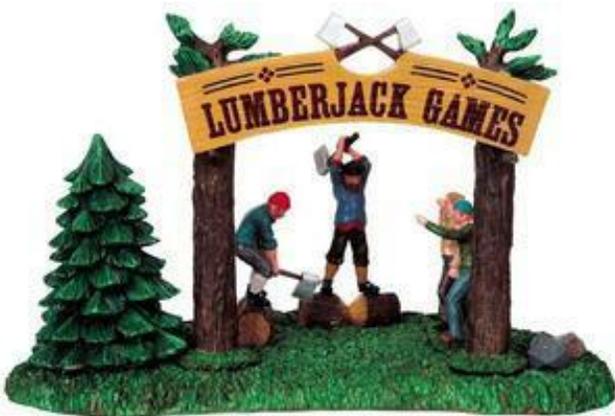
. . . I showed the deer in our yard last column; not sure if I **mentioned the bear** visiting earlier in the fall. One night I went outside to see what happened to our birdfeeder. I found it broken off and lying in pieces in the yard. Went in and came back out came with a flashlight - I found the bear, standing there looking at me - not ten feet away. He left slowly, so did I. Sorry, no picture this time.

. . . How about a **peep hole display**? That means place a display inside a (closed) box - the only way to see it is through the peep hole. Has anyone tried this (or seen one)?

. . . *National Council of 56 Clubs 2008 Convention* in Bloomington, MN had **600 attendees** - just so you know! Linda and I were there!

. . . '*Golden Vine Ferris Wheel*,' Dept. 56 - Our late friend Bill had two. He placed them side by side facing in either direction. That meant they turned in opposite directions: a very unique look (and a **great use of movement**).

. . . Christmas is coming - Linda has placed **three seasonal wall hangings**. One consists of her twelve, counted cross stich, snowmen and snow ladies; second is a deer eating the snowman's carrot nose; and third a snowman, cardinal, rabbit, and sheep looking at the Christmas Star.

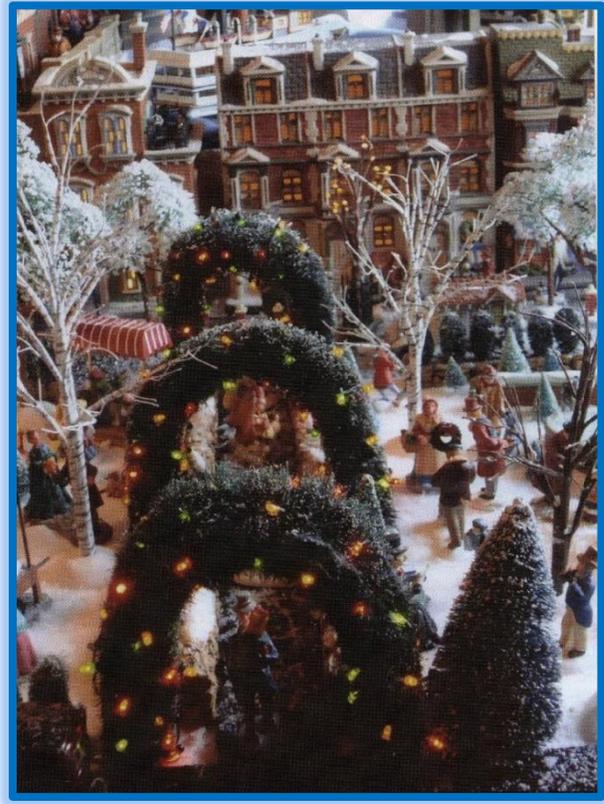


. . . Lemax '*Lumberjack Games*' is something **we just should have**. We live only a couple hours away from Hayward, WI, the home of the '*Lumberjack World Championships*.' Yes, I've attended the event. I'm already looking for 'log rollers' and 'pole climbers' to go with this piece. I'll bet we can use the Dept. 56 North Pole 'Woodsmen Elves.' Two are using a crosscut saw, one cutting down a tree plus another carrying chopped wood. Of course we don't own those elves.

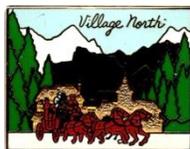
. . . "You don't stop having fun because you get old; you get old because you stop having fun." - Truth Follower.com

. . . Fall Village D-Lights arrived yet - **no!!**

. . . The way I like dancing (guessing that's where the couple is going) and photographers, 'A Shot For Your Fans, Please' should be in our display. Dept. 56 Christmas In The City accessory. Note: I even like the 'old' camera.



. . . Our friends Lani and Mike did it again. This time **arches** made of Dept. 56 'Flexible Sisal Hedges' and 'String of 25 Mini Lights.' Above, they used three of them over a walkway. A nice idea! They were among the originators of our *Village North Collectors Club*.



. . . Lemax 'Deer on the Hoof' is certainly nothing fancy. Spotted the lonely buck on the shelf at *Menard's* in Hermantown, MN. When I saw the **1999 release** date on the package I had to bring him home. \$1.99 to \$22.93 online, we paid \$1.99.

. . . The new Lemax 'Christmas Markets' are **almost gone** at our *Mills Fleet Farm* and *Michael's*; and **all gone** at the Hermantown *Menard's*. Fleet Farm is already taking down some Lemax Christmas shelves (items sold out). *Michael's* is selling pieces they used in their display. Many items no longer available at *Menard's*. The shelves were a mess. I helped a couple of ladies find something on the display they wanted to purchase. Found both items. Note: We have no new Lemax 'small markets' - yet.

. . . The **distance record** will continue. He lived in Bangkok, Thailand when Loren Burke, Linda's twin brother, visited our village display in 2010. Note: with no open house this season, the record is safe.

. . . **ion Television** is providing **many Christmas movies** again this season. Among the four new offerings, we've only seen 'A Royal Christmas Engagement.' However, we did spend last weekend watching all of the movies from past years. Not great films, but they are seasonal.

. . . 'Mending the sails' is **as nice as I was told**. So happy we now have the Dept. 56, New England Village piece. Smaller than I expected, but lovely. As the description says ". . . *an elder sailor shows a younger lad how to check for areas of the sails and lines in need of repair. . .*" They will look great on our NEV dock. Note: The recent announcement of the complete retirement of the New England Village drove me to make this purchase sooner rather than later.

. . . On the *December 3rd Dept. 56 Facebook Live* with Ms. Lit Town, Melinda Seegers talked about the Snow Village 'Christmas Lane.' In January 2021, we will see the first licensed piece in the Christmas Lane line. / Melinda requested people share displays. See the Dept. 56 Facebook Live for guidelines. There will be a prize for the 100th submission. / She has also noticed more outside decorations on homes this year. / Melinda confirmed there will be a *2021 Village Brochure*. / She also showed her artistic use of buttons glued on 'Snowy Lodge Pine' trees (also used ribbons). / Dept. 56 replacement part sales are going crazy. Your orders had to be in by December 11<sup>th</sup> to be received prior to Christmas (shipping company's guidelines). / Dept. 56 Facebook Live, December 17<sup>th</sup> featured Paul Lundberg. The subject was licensed pieces. / Jan 21, Feb 4, and Feb 18 – all 4 to 4:30 p.m. Note: Remember they have planned some holiday Thursdays off. Details on all this on the Dept. 56 Facebook Live for December 3.

. . . Lisa Remy was the **winner** of the National Council of 56 Clubs '**So Much to be Thankful For**' display contest - congratulations! You can view all entrants on Facebook at. [#nccnovembervignette](https://www.facebook.com/nccnovembervignette).



. . . Just finished looking at all **24 nominees** for The Village Collector 2020 Village Video Hall of Fame – twenty-four! I won't tell who I voted for; it **is** a secret ballot© My notes do mention: music; good landscaping; skiers; lots of animation; nice trains; same piece many times; ski gondolas; backgrounds; levels; people; elevated walkway; narrated; nice . . . . .  
<http://thevillagecollector.com/hall-of-fame> Videos are there now; voting begins Friday, December 18th, ends on January 18th. You are allowed to vote once each day. Note: We are ready to vote tomorrow!u

. . . Remember, as of December 15 you were **no longer be able to** send and receive emails from the *Dept. 56 Group on Yahoo*. The site is no longer accessible. Reason? Not enough 'conversation.' Yahoo is right, not much going on lately. I'm going to miss all the friends I met there. Founded on May 28, 1998 by Matt Lake; presently had 2,350 members. I appreciate all the nice comments I've recently received.

. . . "Knowing my luck, I'll be reincarnated as me again."

. . . Village D-Lights, Apr/May 2005, Volume 1, Number 2, 'On Frozen Ponds,' was the **first article** by *Clemente Lopez* in the magazine. He went on to write several more – I enjoyed each one. We were fortunate to meet Clemente, and his family, at the Dept. 56, 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration in St. Paul. Do you remember Clemente?

. . . Black facemasks, with the **Dept. 56 logo**, available on Dept. 56 web site. \$7.00 each.

. . . When I discovered his 'Dickensville' few years ago, I knew the name *Larry Treadwell* was already very familiar. I just reread his 'how-to's' on trees and sidewalks in 2005 issues of *Village D-Lights*. I should have remembered right away. Note: 'Hauntsville 2020' is on [www.thevillagecollector.com](http://www.thevillagecollector.com) and Larry says 'Dickensville 2020' should be there soon.

. . . "Things are beautiful if you love them." – Jean Anouilh

. . . "Estate sales are a good source for Dept. 56 items, but the prices are better at garage sales. I have found them listed as 'Group 54' or maybe 'Studio 57' in the sale ads – you have to keep a sharp eye." JSYK VDL April/May 2005.



"Connecting collectors to clubs, and clubs to each other for over 28 years. Find information about the National Council of 56 Clubs at: <http://www.ncc56.com/>. The site includes contact information for possible clubs in your area." – Linda and I belong to the Village North Collectors Club, an NCC member club.

. . . **Congratulations** to *Elizabeth Johnson Vaughn*, Louisville, KY. She posted the 100th picture of a village display on the *Dept. 56 Facebook* page (and will receive a prize). Over 200 pictures have been posted so far.

. . . "Question: **Why does it say**, "Not microwave safe" on the bottom of our *Dept. 56 Twirling Tea Cups*?" JSYK VDL Aug/Sep 2006.

. . . Still **looking for** 1:43 models of: a '46 Oldsmobile coupe; '54 Chevrolet 2 dr. sedan; '87 VW Jetta GLI; '02 Subaru Outback; '14 Subaru Outback. These are 'real' cars I've owned I still need in model form. I have models of the other twelve cars I've driven on the streets. You will frequently see them in our village displays. I've previously found two model cars because of assistance from folks reading JSYK. If you see one, please let me know.

. . . Classic Toy Trains, January 2021 issue – **Dept. 56 buildings** are featured in several model railroad layouts. Most are Snow Village; I did see a few North Pole buildings. There is also one layout using Dept. 56 'A Christmas Story' buildings and people. Another even has 'our' Lemax 'Elves at Play' playing leap frog.

. . . I'm always looking for **additional people** for our displays. I looked at the web sites for *Barclay Products Company* and *Arttista Accessories*. They both offer many people, some display sized. However I didn't see many with the detail/look we have come to expect.

. . . My note said **148 clubs** were members of the *National Council of 56 Clubs*; Mary Hendrickson was the NCC rep of our *Village North Collectors Club*. The note doesn't tell what year it was.

. . . The red 'leaves' on poinsettias **are called bracts**. The flowers are the small yellow 'things' in the center of each group of leaves. I had to be reminded of that – again.

. . . "I love walking in the rain because no one can see my tears." – Charlie Chaplin

. . . '4 Days of Christmas Village' by Lisa Remy; a **YouTube video** spotted on the National Council of 56 Clubs Facebook page. Nice display, nice video, nice music and, as I wrote to her, now I have to find a Lazy Susan with 'power.' I suppose I should also thank her 😊

. . . Hadn't thought of it – we should include a **population sign** in our village. It would be nice to have a sign saying "Welcome to ?? - population 1,005." I saw the sign in a Christmas video. Note: We still don't have a name for our village; that's a hint.

. . . The talent of **Jim Peters** is joining The Village Collector. He will begin writing for TVC after the holidays. His expertise is showing how to present, photograph, video, etc. your village. Web master Bill Channell is happy to have "DIY information to round out our group." Jim was the 'owner' of the image I used showing the village people wearing masks. Welcome to TVC Jim!



. . . Every time I see this picture I want to **purchase the 'Phillies.'** Then I look it up and am reminded; it was inspired by a painting from artist Edward Hopper titled 'Nighthawks.' That's the name of the Dept. 56 Christmas in the City 2016 introduction, retired in 2018.

. . . "Pies fix everything – any way you slice it!" The words were on a pie dish and server spatula. We received them as a Christmas gift.

. . . If anyone sees **Linda Kruger**, please say 'Hi!' for me. Linda is the retired, original editor of Village D-Lights. She was good for me.

. . . We already have 'Konditorei Schokolade,' Dept. 56 Alpine Village. How come I'm now looking at the Dickens' 'Village Abbey Lane Chocolates?' It has to be the 'Delivering Holiday Chocolates' accessory. It must be my sudden attraction to horse drawn wagons (or continuing **interest in chocolate**).

. . . I've already written a couple of questions for **Jim Kellow**. He's an award winning model railroader and will soon be writing for The Village Collector. Just click on *The Train Station*. I read about him; he has to be smart; he's as old as I am☺ Note: I know Jim is out there; I just received an email from him.

. . . **I'm still looking!** - Can anyone tell me a **source for these dancers?** I saw them 'performing' in the Dickens' display pictured above. They are not on/in any of my catalogs. Thanks! Note: If you read JSYK on a regular basis, you already know Linda and I met on the dance floor.



. . . We received **our first 2020 Christmas card** on December 1<sup>st</sup>. It came all the way from Bill, Kathy and Mickey in New Hampshire.

. . . **Dates of note:** December 21st: *Winter Solstice - First day of Winter.* . . December 25th, *Christmas Day* . . . January 1st: *New Year's Day.* . . January 18, *Martin Luther King Day.* . . February 2, *Ground Hog Day.* . . February 15, *Presidents Day* . . . March 15, *Daylight Savings Time begins* . . . March 17, *St. Patrick's Day*

. . . I saw one in a Christmas village on-line video. It had to be from Dept. 56, Dickens' Village. I liked the look; **didn't know the name.** Very happy I only had to go back to 2007, page by page, to find '*Barrow Manor.*' The large, 3 level fountain accessory, shown both in video and *Village D-Tails*, caught my eye first. I have to say I like the look, but the display video made it look even better. The piece is a *Collectors' Edition.*

. . . Have I not been paying attention; how come **I don't know** anything about the 2021 *Dept. 56 Village* introduction date?

. . . *The Village Collector* announced plans for a **Virtual Gathering** a couple months ago. Now the *National Council of 56 Clubs* will be hosting one via Zoom as well. More details to follow on both events.

. . . Welcome to **Debby Oehme** from the *Northern Lights Collectors Club.* On January 1, 2021, she replaces **Tom Iacoviello** as the *National Council of 56 Club* Region VI Representative. Our sincere thanks to Tom and a warm welcome to Debby. Note: I just checked, they were both at our 'village open house' in January 2019.

*Merry Christmas!*



*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.*