

# JUST SO YOU KNOW! . . . . JANUARY 2, 2022 IDEAS, HINTS, AND OPINIONS

BY DAVID SPEARS

. . . OK, I have a **blank piece of paper**, or more correctly, a blank screen. Now I get/have to fill it with words and pictures. I sure hope you help(ed).

. . . Amy Schaeftbauer is the *Senior Brand Manager* in charge of *Villages* for Dept. 56. **I misspelled her name** in my comment on the *December 2, Dept. 56 Facebook Live* (in the most recent JSYK). I also misspelled Rebecca; she is with Melinda Seegers (unseen) for each show. Rick Jackson, D56 *Creative Director*, was also there (I spelled his name correctly). • The next Dept. 56 *Facebook Live* with Ms. Lit Town, will be January 6, 2022, 4 p.m. CST

. . . **Note to me:** put column stuff in a different order – maybe I did it this time?

. . . 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 page 2.

. . . **Dates of note:** January 17, *Martin Luther King Day* – February 2, *Ground Hog Day* – February 14, *Valentine's Day* – February 12, *Lincoln's Birthday* – February 22, *Washington Birthday* – March 14, *Daylight Savings Time Begins* – March 17, *St. Patrick's Day*. All, **well most**, offer vignette ideas/suggestions.

. . . In the middle of January, **Dept. 56 Village 2022 brochures** will be *available*, order early; they ran out last year. • Video for D56 web site; the process of making of products; original idea to customer sales. On-line January 2022 (produced by Dept. 56).

**MODEL CARS,  
TRAINS &  
VILLAGES**

• *Rosie Hurtado* has been named as the Executive Editor for the new '*Model Cars, Trains & Villages*' magazine; *Linda Di Masso* as the Assistant Executive Editor. It will be fun to see what this new publication provides under their leadership. I wish them the best!

. . . <https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/general-products/facades/wesley-pub-45099> in case you checked, in my last column I **missed the numbers** on the link when directing you to the Lemax '*Wesley Pub.*' • My thanks to SuzyQ; she discovered it. She also pointed out the '*English Lane*' facade. <https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/general-products/facades/english-lane-75197>

. . . Articles and club activities for the *National Council of 56 Clubs* February/March '*Club Connection*' are due February 1, 2022. I know earlier would be a big help to the editor, Judy Severance.



• A lot of different stuff to see in the '*Coach is Here*' in *The Village Collector* – by Bill Channell. • '*Show Your Village*,' Jim Peters' new column is titled '*Video Transition Effects*.' More for me to learn. • You can also visit past issues of '*Hauntsville*' and '*Dickensville*' by Larry Treadwell. Larry is moving and new displays aren't possible this year. We will all miss his displays and words. • Brian Vaill new offering; '*Lionel Trains for Christmas*.' • Thea Heyink is now on TVC with her '*The Creation Station*' projects; the newest, '*2021 Christmas Village on Three Shelves*.' • *Phil & Sue Adkins*, Northampton, England. Check out their December 29th words. • Past '*Just so you know!*' columns on the site. <http://thevillagecollector.com/>

. . . **Reminder:** "*2021 will be (was) the final year for the Dept. 56 Alpine Village. Per Ms. Lit Town on January 7, 2021 'Dept. 56 Facebook Live.' Alpine began in 1986 with artist Neilan Lund, later his daughter Barbara; most recently, Tom Bates. There could be a new piece, now and then, if someone comes up with a really good idea.*" • From JSYK January 14, 2021

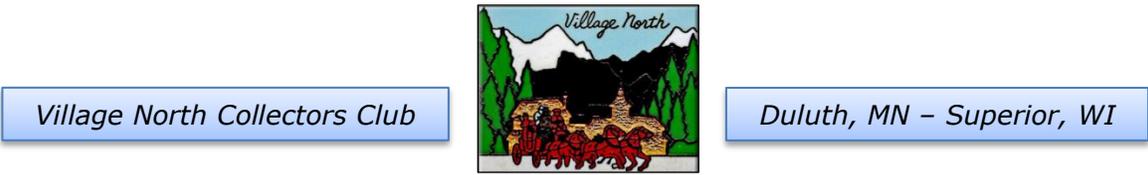
. . . "*I like when I don't have to be careful what I say. That's when you know you're with the right people.*" • On-line

. . . The wedding couple coming out of the church; something we've all done in a display. What made this scene special was the occasional 'flash.' It was so well done we knew immediately what was happening; a photographer was **taking pictures**. • [Video](#) by Fred Thomas, Lemax Addicts, December 16, 2021. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3505040251/user/100001746226937>

. . . From our friend Mary: "Have you noticed that Dept. 56 items are regaining some of their value on eBay? I've been scouring our attic over the attached garage and selling houses and accessories I have duplicates of or no longer want." • I wasn't aware; I haven't ever bought or sold on eBay.

. . . **Region VI:** *Northern Lights Collectors Club*, Twin Cities, MN, Debbie Oehme, [debo4x4@hotmail.com](mailto:debo4x4@hotmail.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.

. . . 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*.



. . . Remember last column I mentioned the Lemax 'Leo's Famous Pizzeria.' I wondered about it, I liked it, begin looking for it. **I found one** – in the storage area; in our basement!

. . . The [Department 56 Quarterly](#) was a suggestion as a **source for information** I might use when writing this column: I'm still looking for my supply from thirty years ago.



. . . On December 31, *Richard Puckett* and *Sue Chretien's* completed their term(s) as Co-Presidents of the National Council of 56 Clubs. **Thanks** for all they have done for the clubs.

. . . I never did it; make a **snowman upside down**, i.e., standing on his head. Lemax did it with 'New Friends to Play with.' The description of the table piece says, "This child has a warped imagination - something I can relate to! His 'New Friends to Play with' are a motley crew of snow people: a Viking, a baseball player, a snow man standing on his head, and a snow dog. His real dog doesn't know what to think of it all."

. . . Have I told you, I was the neighborhood '**substitute**' paperboy; backup for eight to ten routes of other kids. I did use a toboggan (in the winter ☺). I don't remember ever using a wagon. But still, the 'Morning News,' Lemax, should be in our collection. Note: I never had a paper route of my own.



. . . "Everybody has the power to make someone else happy. Some do it by entering the room, while some do it by leaving." • On-line

. . . These words came from our kitchen, "There will be some noise, I'm shredding cookies to make Oreo Chocolate Truffles." I like them (however, Linda's chocolate chip cookies are **the** best).

. . . "All the good ones are a little crazy" • On-line

. . . A *Honda CL160 Scrambler* – My younger brother Charlie and I bought a ‘show version’ of the bike; that was over fifty years ago. I’ve ridden many others, but that was the **only motorcycle** I’ve ever owned. A reader asked me the motorcycle question. I know not why. Note: I still maintain a ‘Motorcycle Endorsement’ on my Minnesota Driver’s License – Again, I know not why.

. . . <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh2HCgmqoXk> - Dec 23, 2021 ‘*CBS Mornings*’ – ‘*It takes a village*.’ the 5 minute story talks about the how and why of displays with Jeffery Kirchner. He is the *NCC Region 2 Rep.*, and President of the *Garden State Village Collectors*, lives in *NJ*. They also interviewed Dept. 56, Ms. Lit Town, Melinda Seegers. Reporter was Jamie Wax.



- Still looking to **ID this couple** – anyone know them?



- The ‘couple in the water’ look like fun; **can anyone tell me** who they are.



- Please don’t tell me ‘*Virginia*’ and ‘*Bob*.’



. . . ‘**Welcome**’ to new readers – ‘*Hi!*’ to all others as well. Hope to hear from each of you – once in a while.

. . . The six inch ‘*Tribute to 9/11*’ hanging ornament, has been on sale from Dept. 56. Jim Shore designed this *Firefighter for Possible Dreams* as a **tribute** to the 9/11 Heroes. The Firefighter looked like someone we could use as a ‘center feature’ in a display town square. Introduced and retired in 2021. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this figurine benefits *First Responder’s Children’s Foundation*.



- Nice conversation, the right people together, in a good setting; I think I’d like to be part of it. • Display by Dario Papetti, Rome Italy – *Lemax Addicts Facebook Page* – Dec 14, 2021.



- We most always have a parade or two in our displays. Featured in the red convertible is *Jasmine*, from *Aladdin*, a 1992 *Walt Disney* movie. Not sure where her driver disappeared to. Maybe he stopped to grab a cup of ‘*Russian*’ tea.



- Lots of information in small area: Norwegian ancestry (Linda); Santa Claus; 'Just A Cup Of Joe;' 'Ed, the NCC Snowman,' 'Snowflake, the NCC Snowgirl;'' 'Proud Mama and Papa;'' 'Check This Out (cardinals and checkers);' 'Icy Delights;'' 'Kick Up your Heels;'' 'One Choo-Choo Burger Coming Up!'' 'You Want Fries With That?' 'Sing a Song for Santa Claus;'' 'The Santa Palooza Masterpiece.' Music; ice cream; hamburger; dancing; trees; garland; snow; Viking flag and ship; and the Lemax 'Cafe Norsk' Norwegian Restaurant. • All on our small end table North Pole vignette.



◆ The National Council of 56 Clubs leadership as of January 1, 2022: *Brandon Taylor*, President; *Anna McPherson*, Vice-President; *Martha Jack*, Secretary; and *Scott McKeivitt*, Treasurer. Congratulations and my best to all.

. . . 'Cattle Drive' - they are 'King & Country;' *Original Country & West-Cookie;* 'Are You Talking Good Cup Of Coffee.' I've 'cowboy area' in a display. choice. • I was a 'neighborhood' although I was the bar-Minnesota gang, cowboys



[www.treefrogtreasures.com/](http://www.treefrogtreasures.com/) 'Winchester Cowboy,' 'The ern Singer,' 'Cattle Drive To Me...?' 'Cowboy,' and 'A long thought I should have a These would be a great neighborhood cowboy' as a kid; keep 'cause in our northern didn't wear glasses - I did.

. . . A place of worship I **should have bought** ten years ago; 'St. Luke's Church,' Dept. 56, Dickens Village. Introduced 2009 and retired 2011. I'm seeing it again and again in displays. Different/interesting look, would fit in most displays; how come we didn't/don't buy it?

. . . We use many **calendar pictures** for display backgrounds, especially on shelves. Before New Year's, we collected all the 'handout/advertising calendars' from the stores and businesses visited. Now it's time to go looking for 'calendars on sale.' Note: We already have quite a 'back stock.' Only need one of each; our color copy machine does very good making more.

. . . For those of you keeping track, my new computer chair is still very good/comfortable after a month at the desk. And, Linda's *Fattigmand* was very tasty; and is all gone.



- Does this seem strange to you? Lemax 2021 'Relaxing Snowman.' I mean he is sitting in the sun. And wearing shorts and winter boots, but he's still made of snow! His book is "The Life of Frosty," – just so you know!



- 'Stargazing.' Lemax; this would be a natural accessory for our Dept. 56, Dickens' Village, 'The Old Royal Observatory.' What do you think? Would anyone really notice the era of their



- 'Go-Cart Racers' by Lemax – I'm bothered with the name Go Kart? In my world they have an engine (and only one driver/rider). • Then there is the soap box; wouldn't that make it a multi-person Soap Box Derby car? And, with the smallest person driving.

- 'Pardoes The Fool' looks like he could find a place at our house. Efteling Fairytale Forest, 2017. 6.69 inches tall. <https://www.felinaworld.com/uk/efteling>.



- Dept. 56, 'Dockside Stevedore,' Christmas In The City, 2005 - 2008. 5.5in x 2.05in x 5.5 in • We live in Duluth, MN, the port at the west end of the Great Lakes. We have ocean going ships arriving/leaving until the Soo Locks, Sault Ste. Marie. MI, close for the season (January 15 to March 25). The unloading equipment doesn't look like this in 2021, but I'll bet it did in the '50's'. There is one problem; we've really never done a CIC waterfront. Wait, maybe in NEV; we most always have a waterfront there. Note: Duluth, MN to the Atlantic Ocean is 2,332 miles or 7 days. • The *Paul R. Tregurtha* is the largest freighter on the Great Lakes at 1,013.5 ft.

... 'Dickensville!' - That's what it is; I knew something was missing during the holidays. I went back and enjoyed Larry Treadwell's *villages* and *storytelling* from 2020. <http://thevillagecollector.com/larry-treadwell>. He reminded me "The Melancholy Tavern serves bangers and mash all year." I feel better now.

... I spoke with Polly Clark, Publisher of *Village D-Lights*, on December 3. Subject: *Village D-Lights* offering a Special Commemorative Issue; 'Celebrating 35 years of New England Village.' She informed me the "additional pages/information has been included with the 4th Quarter VDL Issue. It is at the printer and will be mailed next week. **I received *Village D-Lights*, Qtr. 4, on December 27, 2021.** Remember, the New England Village has been retired by Dept. 56. My opinion, page 8.

. . . *Monorail* – still **want it** every time I see one in a display (or part of a ‘real life’ travel video).

. . . ‘*Airbrite*’ Universal Wireless Wiring System – If ‘**wireless wiring**’ sounds interesting, take a look. <http://thevillagecollector.com/links> a simple video for quick learning.



- We have actual/real ‘snow canons’ almost in our neighborhood. It would be nice to add one, or two, to our ski hill display. Kind of overboard, but a fun detail. ‘*Snow Canon On Wagon Ski Welt.*’ <https://www.felinaworld.com/us/Jagerndorfer>. I don’t ski anymore; did as a kid, most everyone around here did.



- Had not seen a 4 person bobsled before; actually no ‘village size’ bobsleds prior to these from Jagerndorfer – called ‘*Bobsleigh.*’ This one is from Jamaica (colors/flag); also saw Italy, Germany and Austria. <https://www.felinaworld.com/uk/Bobsleigh>. No size was mentioned.

. . . Subject: Lemax ‘*Lost Rafters*’ animated accessory; can/do the lost rafters **separate from the base**? I’m thinking of another use for the kids in the ‘tubs on tubes.’ Can anyone help me out?

. . . ‘*Spider-man: No Way Home*’ is the new, very popular, movie. We have a village size **Spider-man figure** purchased at a *Dollar Store*. I’ll bet he’d be more noticed if we have him a display now.

. . . “*Sometimes the best place to be is nowhere to be found.*” • On-line

. . . <https://d56club.com/> - the location of a **Dept. 56 oriented forum**. I joined, ‘*davidg*’ is me.  
• I’ve posted messages, answered/asked a few questions and added my image to the forum. Some of the nuance’s still have me a bit confused; but I’ll get it (and they have help available). Stop by and say ‘*Hi!*’ to ‘*davidg.*’

. . . From the Dept. 56 Facebook page – Dec 30, 2021: “*2022 Village, Possible Dreams and Snowbabies introductions will be coming soon! Watch for details on the Department 56 website and on this Facebook Page. Join us on Thursday, January 6, 2022 for our first FACEBOOK LIVE for the year. We air LIVE at 4 PM central time. There are always some interesting things to learn -- and sometimes we have special guests join us! Please join us, too!*”

. . . **More or less** of anything? I’ve asked this question before. Is there anything you would like me to **add** to JSYK? Is there anything you would like me to **eliminate** from JSYK? ☐ I received one reply last time. You know who you were – and thanks!

. . . Village displays I’ve **enjoyed this year** have come from many places including: Holland, Guatemala, Italy, United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, Philippines, Greece, Hungary, Denmark, most Canadian Provinces and American states – most found on *Facebook, YouTube or TVC.*

. . . Has anyone used **3D puzzles** in a display, probably in the background? I just saw Neuschwanstein Castle, the Bavarian King Ludwig II realized his dream of a Knight’s castle from the Middle Ages. At L19, W8.4, H14.9 inches, it might be too big. You did notice I said 3D? Ages 10+.

. . . “*I like when I don’t have to be careful what I say. That’s when you know you’re with the right people.*” • On-line



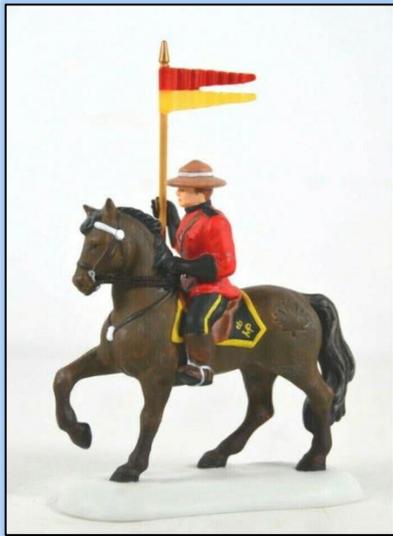
• I found this, in my head, **subtle, clever**, something was wrong; took me several minutes to put it together. It was on *Facebook, Lemax Addicts*, December 26, 2021 by Lara Damgaard in Denmark. Hint: Think Amazon.



• Lara Damgaard Denmark, *Facebook, Lemax Addicts*, December 26, 2021 'found' another artist with easel for us. We seem to be building a collection of **working artists**. Our 'art in the park' display idea gets better all the time. Question: Name of piece?



. . . Linda and I both **like this picture**. I had to use this bigger image to make it look right. It's from a display by Manuel Pagliara, '*Lemax Addicts*,' Facebook. December 29, 2021. Lemax, '*Relaxing Day*' is the figurine. • Jim Peters, thanks for the ID. Note: We have a 'topiary' growing neighbor.



. . . I've long wanted **additional staff** to go with our 'Mountie.' A friend brought back the Dept. 56 Heritage Village 'Mountie' for us when she was visiting family in Ontario. He was only available in Canada. • The *YouTube* picture in 'Marie's Christmas Village Revised' showed me other Mounties exist. Now we need to contact Marie Marshall to find her source.

. . . *Well worth the look!* Everyone moves: people, animals, carts and horses; very nicely done, different, interesting; **a must see display!!** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRBOJdKQFOg>

. . . My plan was to write comments on **Village D-Lights Qtr. 4, 2021, New England Village**. After three hours, reading the magazine and taking notes, I was not yet to page 25 (of 90). I realized that I'd attempted an impossible task. What you need to know is the issue truly features the now retired Dept. 56 New England Village. There is a history of actual New England buildings and tradesmen (figurines); both show the connection to D56 pieces. Includes many displays, lots of ideas, especially 'making' water; a complete list of all NEV pieces (with some pictures) from 1986 – 2020. All D56 artists responsible for NEV are featured. A collectible publication; if you 'do' NEV, it is a 'must have.' It is not perfect, but I'm very happy to have it. • They say (on the back) to order extra copies – doesn't show how, or the cost. I'm guessing call Polly Clark - 800-765-1690

. . . *"If you have knowledge, let others light candles by it."* • Fortune cookie



*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.*

• 3,276 is the number of words in this JSYK – not counting this line •

B/B C. – *"Thanks for another great issue and for all the ones this year. I really enjoy them. Wishing you and Linda a very Merry Christmas!"*

M H. – *"Thanks for your latest column. I faithfully read and enjoy each one."*

K. - *"Great card"*

M. and T. – . . . . *"David, this again was an incredible resource for all collectors. Thank you for always sharing those wonderful talents with the "needy." 😊*