

Toyland Is New Wonderland For All Of The Youngsters

Children's Toys Ante-Date Recorded Early Civilization

Where did the toys that children love so much such as dolls, kites, blocks, etc., come from? Records and archeological excavations show that children have been playing with dolls, and many other toys we still see today, since many thousands of years ago. The Egyptians were perhaps the

first to have dolls. These were not idols, they were strictly items to entertain the children. Kites originated in the Orient. At one time kite flying was a national sport in China. Blocks, which were once called building bricks first appeared minus any decoration. Most were somewhat larger than the average ones today.

Generally as soon as something new appears for adults, it is duplicated in miniature for children. It was not too many years after the first appearance of the locomotive that a child's replica was designed. The earliest steam engine, however, far preceded this. Records show a reference to it as far back as 150 years before the birth of Christ.

The sling shot, used by men as a weapon, and referred to in the Bible as David's weapon, has been a toy for centuries, too. Children's tastes have changed little since ancient times. A look at the toy collection in the British Museum would prove that. In fact, it would not be advisable to take the children there before Christmas—they'd find too many toys to ask for!

FOR YOUNGSTERS

The small fry love to have their own furniture. (Would you be comfortable in a chair that's far too big, or eating at a table that's nearly over your head?) Furniture that's scaled to their size is available in desks, chairs, tables, stools... even sofas! A child begins to really enjoy his own chair when he is about two years old. If he has only one, it will probably be dragged along by the child from room to room.



NEWEST ADDITION to career building toy kits is this peg set slanted toward training the budding landscape architect, according to the Toy Guidance Council. It contains everything the child needs to "plant" a pretty yard.



It's Wonderful World Of Dolls

Maybe, it's the mother complex in her, but every little girl wants—and deserves—a doll. This year, reports Toy Guidance Council, the perfect, oh-so-wonderful doll will be waiting for her... exceeding anything she may have fancied in her most elaborate dreams. Dolls not only resemble children, they walk, talk, cry and drink like children. Manufacturers have exceeded the already near-human realism of previous seasons, now creating models with such muscular agility, they actually perform ballet routines.

Another amazing development is a versatile 3-foot high doll, exact counterpart of any real youngster her age, designed to walk alongside a carriage pushing a smaller doll! Magic on the family scene. Speech versatility is still another development in the doll world. This year Chatty Cathy, young Miss America of the play pen set, makes her entry on the holiday scene speaking whole sentences in small child chatter! Another female with a talent for talking.

Still more marvels have entered the field... accessories, even furniture, copied from current "grown-up" models: kits with instructions on the "care and feeding" of dolls... even diets and scientific baby care; and still another thrill—a baby's bath with nozzle spray. High fashion takes over the miniature doll group, with a boom in carrot-tressed dolls, bangs and beehive coiffures, even needle-pointed shoes and bulky charm bracelets.

1960's doll is a career girl carrying a brief case! Stuffed animals have personalities, too. Patterned after zoo counterparts, they look amazingly real. Others have come from outer space, or a fantasy group, and some are TV characters named Huckleberry Hound and Quick Draw McGraw.

With so many "jet age" developments, it should be a record year for the Doll. First Lady of the Land.



ZERO IN on this gift for boys. It's the "count down," an electronic missile control base just like the Army's vital missile launching nerve center. The rockets blast off up to a height of 35 feet. It's constructed of sturdy plastic; operates on standard flashlight batteries.

Youngsters Take Off Into World Of Scientific Adventure In 1960

What's happening to kids? Where are the cowboys and Indians, the cops and robbers? Who once "fought it out" on city streets? The "cops" are now "rocket engineers." Cowboys have turned into astronauts. Even the one-time squaws are now tinkering in miniature laboratories.

The scientific age has invaded the children's world. And the kids with characteristic flexibility, have responded by bewildering their parents. Eight-year-olds make remarks like, "Pop, according to my calculations, it's going to rain tomorrow" and it does. Pop stares at his offspring in amazement.

Then he learns that a thermometer hangs outside Junior's window, and a humidity computer fills the table space once occupied by a pair of six guns. He begins "helping" Junior picking up knowledge he never had—and finding this amateur weatherman business is fun!

Children's interests are changing and their hobby activities are following suit. According to the Hobby Industry Association, new hobbies are opening doors to every child who'll someday have to earn a place in the world.

Young chemists delightedly pour mixtures from one test tube to another, learning the science of analyzing chemicals by color. "Want to know what foods are high in calories? Visit your junior chemist in his experimental lab. He'll make a few tests, and come up with the answer."

He can even send secret messages in invisible ink, make print reappear with a drop from a special vial. The youngster who toys continually with the radio dial and asks, "where does the sound come from?" is showing a natural scientific curiosity. Don't stifle it by replying, "I don't know," or "ask your father."

Urge him to find out for himself. Give him a radio hobby kit. With it he'll explore wireless

WHAT THEY SAY Here's what automatic dishwasher users say: Fewer dishes and glasses broken, fewer tea towels needed, hot water saved because dishes are done faster in a day.

MEN INTO SPACE is a new idea in game fun for the younger set that bases competition on rocket riding adventures. Boys, especially, will go for this gift.

Furniture Gifts Fine For Years

A well-chosen gift of furniture will give happiness for many Christmas Days to come! There's just one problem to selecting furniture as gifts and that is being correct in your gift choice. However, without actually asking "what do you want?" and spoiling the surprise, check with close friends and family to determine whether a practical or "just pretty" furniture item will better fill the bill.

Women usually welcome such pieces as a vanity table, writing desk, sewing table, oversize jewel box and an arm chair or lounge of their own. The difficult thing is to find out what she wants... locating the item is easy. There are so many styles in every piece... from Danish modern through Oriental to traditional.

Such decorative furniture is being shown now in, not only all the loveliest of woods, but in jewel tones as well. Painted furniture is a trend, not a fad, say the experts. For Him

The man of the house usually covets the most comfortable chair ever designed. This choice is practically pleasure-proof. Better wrap up a miniature chair for his gift though and then take him along after Christmas to pick out a chair.

To be really comfortable, a chair must fit the person who will sit in it. The chair should be high enough for the feet to rest on the floor. The seat should be long enough to give support from spine to knee. The arms should hold the sitter's arms from elbow to wrist. And the back should support at a comfortable angle from spine to nape or neck.

You will be able to find a chair that fits him, pleases you, and suits the decor of the home, with very little difficulty. The selection is tremendous in every price range.



BIGGER THAN EVER this Yuletide are dolls and doll accessories. Here a happy youngster appears with her playmate size doll, who looks just like a 3-year-old.

Buying Toys Deserves A Priority On Most Christmas Shopping Lists

Buying toys deserves priority on your Christmas list, even if you are only a cousin once removed or a casual family friend. Time invested in the selection of suitable toys can yield lifetime dividends of value to a child.

This advice comes from Dr. Philip Lewis of the Chicago Board of Education and Toy Guidance Council's Advisory Committee, who also suggests a preliminary reconnaissance of Toyland before buying. Because of the air of excitement surrounding a toy department during the holidays, it's a smart idea to list the ages and habits of the children you want gifts for, and outline the basic play interests at each age level. Then look for toys that fit them individually.

You'll find it rewarding, in your role of Assistant Santa Claus, to study the information on toy packaging. Read leaflets like "Learning Through Play"—Toy Guidance Council's, outline on toy selection which gives special play needs of each age of childhood.

Toys designed for very young children should be labeled for sucking. There should be no loose parts, and edges should be smooth. Lightweight toys are best for the crib and play pen crowd whose muscles are just beginning to develop.

A new category of toys—from the land of science—should ease your gift selection for teenagers. It includes lab equipment on a home scale, even group viewer microscopes for family participation.

Balance is important in a toy just as it is in nourishment. From babyhood on, children require varied play activities; so, in making up your gift list, consult leaflets at good stores or get advice from parents with children in similar age groups.

By scheduling this important part of your Christmas shopping early, you will find a broader selection of "correct" toys and a store personnel with time to be helpful.

Familiar Carols Ring Out Everywhere At Christmas

The joyful strains of "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" and other carols each year renew a lovely tradition as they fill the air at Christmas.

All Christian nations have carols which are religious, seasonal songs, usually happy in spirit. The singing of carols at Easter time has declined over the years, but Christmas carols have survived and grown in popularity.

Carols originally were sung to accompany a ring dance in which dancers joined hands to form a circle. Many of these tunes still retain their lilt.

About the 13th century, traditional dance melodies were adapted to religious texts. Worshipers welcomed something less severe than the old Latin hymns and found these more lively than plain song or chants.

Carols were written by clergymen, poets, composers, peasants, and by university scholars. They were equally at home in the alehouse, hall, marketplace or cloister.

Hundreds of carols were written in England between 1400 and 1647, when the Puritan Parliament abolished Christmas celebrations and suppressed carols.

The favorite songs survived by oral tradition and in crudely printed broadsheets. They did not fully regain their popularity for some 200 years.

In the middle of the 19th century, texts for several old carols came to light when a book belonging to Richard Hill, a London grocer, was found behind a bookcase. From about 1500 to 1536, Hill recorded all manner of things in the book. Among his many notes were transcriptions of long lost carols.

The Rev. J. M. Neale and the Rev. T. Helmore created more interest in carols when they published "Carols for Christmas Tide" in 1853 which set England texts to the 16th century Swedish carol tunes. One of the favorites in the collection, "Good King Wenceslas," was written to the tune of a Spring carol, "Tempus Adest Floridum."

The resurgence of carol writing in the mid-19th century led to many American carols, including "We Three Kings of Orient, Are" and "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear."

Traditional old English carols, as well as carols from other European countries, especially Germany and France, remain as favorites.

GIFT TREE NICE

Many families follow the custom of having a "hospitality tree." A small Christmas tree is set up near the door and as guests arrive or depart, they are given a small gift off the tree.

Tots to Teens

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A Small Deposit Holds Your Lay-Away

Capture All Christmas Fun With Well-Planned Pictures

The holiday season presents picture opportunities second to none. Be ready with film, flash and a reliable camera. And have plenty of picture-taking necessities on hand. You'll wait another year to record holiday happenings.

For a realistic record, catch Christmas in color. It's easy to use color film—especially with simple box-type cameras that take slides or snapshots in color, as well as black-and-white pictures.

Plan your picture-taking so it tells a complete story from early preparations right on through the excitement of gift-opening and the last sleepy nod Christmas night.

For in-the-house holiday shots, it's a good idea to leave on as many lights as possible. Use a camera that comes complete with built-in flashholder for easy indoor use.

Safety in numbers is a good rule for snapshooting because you don't always get what you want the first time, and because a series of pictures—rather than a one-shot stint—tells the story of what happened next.

When shooting small fry, keep that camera low—at the child's own eye-level—even if it means sitting, stooping or kneeling. It's usually best to come in as close as the camera will allow.

Shutter secret that works well with youngsters is to click when they're absorbed in what they're doing.

Include all parts of that Christmas story—from outdoor decoration to indoor festivities.

Make the most of your holiday pictures. Put them in the family album. Have some of the best ones enlarged and framed to hang on the wall or send as gifts to family and friends. And, of course, extra prints can brighten many a letter to a fond, far-away grandma.

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FIRST CAMERA—It is wise to select something inexpensive easy to use for a youngster's first camera. If you select a camera that has a flashholder, the attachment can be more adept.

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