

THE Homemaker's SECTION

RUTH KING, WOMAN'S EDITOR

Her Own Tool Kit Will Make Mama 'Mrs. Fix'



YOU'LL BE SURPRISED at what a handy Mrs. Fix Mama will turn out to be if she has her own little tool kit.

By MR. FIX
Distributed by NEA Service

Since the man of the house is generally supposed to be able to fix things, either by inborn talent or necessity, his weeknds are likely to be cluttered up with a backlog of little chores which put a damper on either more ambitious projects or just plain loafing, depending on the nature of the beast.

A little oil on the distaff side's household troubles can make a lot of difference, in either case. There are plenty of simple Mr. Fix problems that Mrs. Fix could do on the spot, without waiting for her husband to get into the mood—or be shamed into it. What seems to be holding up the idea is that most men think women want to tackle repair jobs only with hair pins or nail files.

While the average housewife seems to work miracles with such crude implements, it is probably through sheer necessity. Nobody has taken the trouble to show her where the hammer and nails are kept, or how to use them. So she uses the heel of her shoe instead. A remedy we have in mind for this is a set of simple tools that the man of the house can assemble for his wife, with a few pointers on what the items are for. They can be slashed away in a little box or carry-all in the broom closet or under the kitchen sink. An inexpensive metal tackle box, with a compartment tray for nails, screws, washers, etc., is ideal.

It should be planned for simple, but every-day emergencies, like a loose hinge on the screen door, a bracket that's become wobbly, a leaky faucet or a mildly stopped-up sink.

A lady-sized hammer, to start with. An assortment of screwdrivers; what could be easier than one with a master handle in which the various-sized blades are kept? Pliers. A small wrench, suitable for taking water faucets apart. An assortment of nails, screws, cup hooks, thumbtacks, sticky tape, washers. And a wood awl.

OLD PEOPLE'S GIFTS
Jolly Neighbors are asked to take gifts for the old people's home for the November meeting. Plans for the presentation of gifts was made at the meeting held October 9 at the home of Mrs. Pete Newman.

Refreshments were served to Mrs. John Barker, Mrs. Tillie Grapo, Mrs. Earl Padgett, Mrs. Victor Ongman, Mrs. Russell Toyen, Mrs. Ralph Lund, Mrs. Ed Jolly, Mrs. John Frazier, Mrs. Leonard Matson, Mrs. Pat Kossman, Mrs. Morris Jorde, Mrs. Katie Hall, Viola Rugg and Cursey Nichols.

Once production problems were solved, the Handlers hit the jackpot. Their first music box toy, a miniature hurdy-gurdy, took the industry and the public by surprise. They sold more than a million of them at \$2 each. Because of their patents, they had a monopoly in the field.

Since then they have brought out almost a dozen musical toys. Mattel products include a jack-in-the-box that pops out to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel," a guitar that plays a western tune, and musical merry-go-rounds, chuck wagons and square dancers.

Young Husband-Wife Team Successful as Toy Makers

By JACK QUIGG
AP Newsfeatures

CULVER CITY, Calif. — Six years ago Elliot and Ruth Handler, a young couple with very little money but some big ideas, converted their 15x20-foot garage into a workshop and began making toys Ruth handled sales.

Today they're still at it. But instead of a cluttered garage they have a brand new factory with 58,000 feet of floor space. Instead of a few toys a day they're turning out 10 million a year. They expect to gross about \$6 million in 1951.

How the Handlers zoomed to success is a story that is recited with wonder in the murderously competitive toy industry. Ruth, 34, and Elliot, 35, modestly credit their rise to one thing: a music box capable of being mass produced.

Let's pick up their story in Denver, Colo., where Ruth and Elliot met. They were both 16 and going to school. After love bloomed, they went together for five years before marrying—Ruth's parents opposed the match. "They thought I'd starve to death in some garret," she says. Elliot was an art student.

Her parents' prediction wasn't far from wrong. After they did marry, they had a string of lean years. They moved to Los Angeles where Elliot resumed his studies and Ruth took a job as a stenographer. They lived in a shabby, one-room apartment furnished only with a refrigerator, stove and a bed.

It was while Elliot was in the army that they started the business, Mattel, Inc., that was to make their fortune. (The firm name is a combination of syllables from the names Matson and Elliot. Matson was a partner in the firm's

UNKNOWN MAN KILLED

PORTLAND, Ore. — A Northern Pacific terminal company switch engine Tuesday night struck and killed an unidentified man in freight yards near the union station. Railroad workers told police they had seen the man earlier stumbling along the tracks and had warned him to keep out of the

way. He was 50 to 60 years old, police said.

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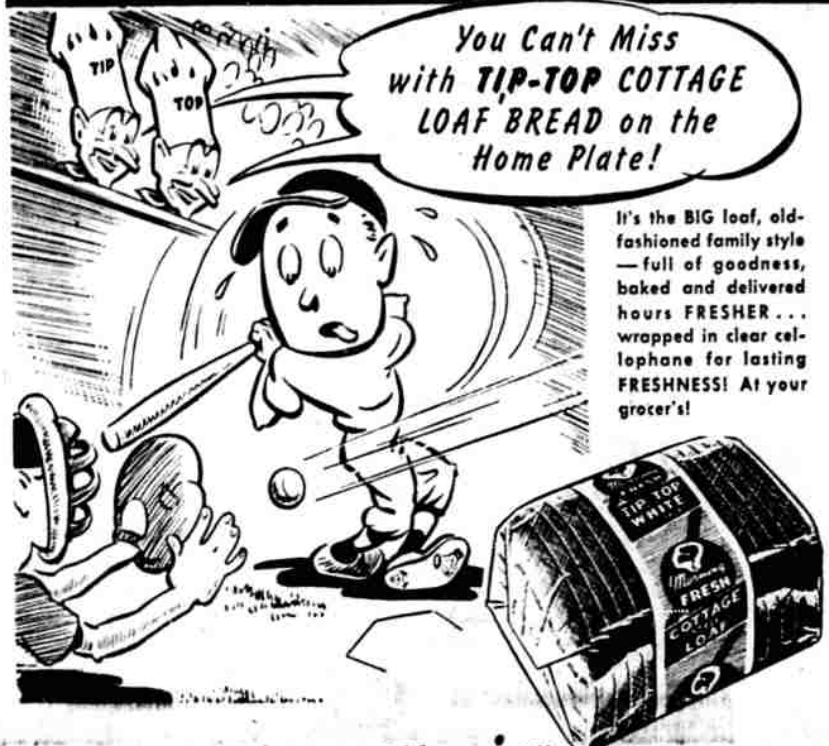
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