



SANTA CLAUS has turned in his fur cap, sleigh, and reindeer. This Christmas he'll don a space helmet, blast off from his North Pole launching pad, and come orbiting through space under rocket power!

His flight bag will contain an abundance of true-to-life playthings reflecting America's post-sputnik absorption in science, satellites, and stars. Their authenticity is indicated by the fact that one model space station was designed by Wernher von Braun, the rocket expert who designs missiles and earth satellites for the U.S. Army.

Some of Santa's "specials" this Christmas are: multi-stage rockets climbing 150 feet into the air; missile launchers; satellites that operate on gyroscopic principles, and kits for making scale models of such streamlined weapons as the Nike-Hercules, Redstone, and Honest John.

The Toy Guidance Council says: "While providing fun, such toys arouse the curiosity of youngsters, help them through the primary steps of experiment and discovery, and lead them toward more advanced preparation for the science professions . . . Officials seeking ways to attract more youngsters to careers in science will find an answer in this year's playthings, for if a youngster can't be lured by the many fascinating new science toys, that field most likely isn't for him."

Probably few boys—or girls—could resist a portable planetarium, an electrical experiment set, or reflecting-type telescope "better than that used by Galileo."

For such youngsters, Saint Nick can offer a variety of games patterned on TV quiz shows; miniature bowling alleys, hockey fields, and baseball diamonds; and compressed-air ack-ack that fire ping-pong balls. One versatile kit offers glass blowing, chromophotography, and crime detection rolled into one, and Alfred Hitchcock has a game in which the kiddies solve a series of mysterious murders in a haunted house.

If you happen to think Christmas toys should somehow harken back to a gentler era, there's equipment for making a model, not of a supersonic hydrogen bomber, but of a dinosaur—which is harkening way back. And if you'd rather have your child watch robins than rockets, there's a \$1 kit for assembling life-size birds out of plastic.

See you at the toy counters!



Aspiring archaeologist completes a model dinosaur (left), and young ornithologist adds color to Baltimore oriole.

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