



"Be careful, dear! You know the close call you had last year when a hunter mistook you for a card sharp!"

Toy Soldiers Not Toys, Become Collector Items

By ROSETTE HARGROVE
NEA Staff Correspondent

PARIS (NEA) — Toy soldiers are marching out of the nurseries and setting up camp in grownups' dens.

Most children today are too "advanced" to want to find such old-fashioned things as toy soldiers under the tree on Christmas morning. They're looking forward to space-age gifts — rockets, missiles, space suits, etc. These days the toy soldiers are mostly the playthings of adults.

The toy soldier first made its appearance during the Seven Years War (1756-1763) and fasci-

nated such figures of the past as King Frederic of Prussia, Louis XV of France, Czar Paul I of Russia. Even Napoleon collected them.

Recently, no less a person than Gen. Paul Blanc, director of the French National Museum of the Army, inspected an army of 4,022 toy soldiers. They were spread out on a stand covering 150 square feet.

The occasion was the exhibition of soldiers owned by the French "Society of Collectors of Historical Figurines." The society's 501 members, who range from ambassadors to simple working men, can muster an "army" of four million.

One member has 700,000, which altogether weigh about 10 tons. Another collector, who specializes in lead soldiers (they are usually made of tin), had to move into a house when his troops threatened to advance through the floor of his apartment.

Getting recruits for these armies can be expensive. A cavalryman costs from \$10 to \$30. Price depends on the amount and precision of detail. An 18th Century Swiss Guard (rare) will set the collector back \$400. A foot soldier bought in the Flea Market before World War II for less than a dollar was valued at around \$200 three years ago. In 1954, 600 pieces went for three million francs, which then represented more than \$10,000.

Mme. Fernande Metayer, who has been the leading creator of figurines since 1930, started out as a painter of miniatures. At the suggestion of a friend, she tried her hand at making toy soldiers. She never painted another miniature after starting on the soldiers. "It is so much more diverting," she explains, "although the work does take a great deal of research, considering that the tiniest detail has to be correct."

Madame Metayer says it is difficult to estimate how long it takes to complete a figurine.

"I work on several at a time," she says, "if only to escape monotony. For example the coach in which Napoleon rode to his crowning at Notre Dame must have taken many, many hours. The horse reins are threaded through rings no bigger than the eye of a darning needle."

Mme. Metayer, who ships her products to the four corners of the earth, conveniently forgets the names of many of her best clients. Most of the important collectors prefer, for tax purposes, to remain anonymous. The reason being that in many countries toy soldier collections are looked upon as works of art and the owners of such collections are taxed accordingly.

BUY HIT MUSICAL

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Warner Brothers Studio announced Thursday it has purchased for an undisclosed sum the motion picture rights to the hit Broadway musical "The Music Man." The musical is now in its third year in New York. It was written by Meredith Willson and starred Robert Preston.

Montague Rotarians Hold Party

MONTAGUE — Yule decorations created a festive atmosphere in the club room of the Montague auditorium when the members and wives of the Rotary Club in addition to several guests, gathered together for the annual Christmas dinner party Monday evening, December 14. President James B. McAdams presided.

Mrs. Leah Reichman at the piano and Mrs. James B. McAdams at the organ, a duet, entertained playing medleys of Christmas carols and songs.

Among the guests were Sen. Randolph Collier; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Engle Jr.; Red Bluff; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stone and George H. Winter.

Lester Newton, program chairman, introduced Fred Engle as speaker for the evening.

Newton introduced Walter Stone who is chief of the Division of Adult Parolees.

Sixty-nine persons were present for the event. President McAdams commended the decorations committee, headed by Mrs. T. H. Dickinson as chairman, for the beautiful decorations. The tables were decorated with Christmas greens, centered with golden colored angels, and red candles. A beautifully decorated silver tip tree stood in one corner of the club room, and attractive mobiles were suspended from the ceiling.

The dinner was prepared and served by members of the Montague WSCS.

Centenarian To Vote

WOODBIDGE, N.J. (AP) — Catherine Lorimer celebrated her 100th birthday Thursday night and announced that she would vote for the first time in next year's presidential election.

She became a naturalized citizen last April at 99. A native of Stirling, Scotland, Mrs. Lorimer came to this country in 1929.

Birth date of real opera is said to be 1600, when Euridice, composed by Peri and Giulio Caccini, was produced.



BALDY EVANS' BAND will play during a portion of Evans' Christmas Dance Band Jamboree at the Klamath Auditorium Saturday night. Two rock 'n' roll bands also will be featured.

Dance Bands Jamboree Set

Dancing music to suit most tastes — from mellow old favorites to rock and roll tunes for youngsters — will pour from three bands during Baldy Evans' "Dance Band Jamboree" at the Klamath Auditorium Saturday night, December 26.

To fit them all into two 45-minute sessions each, dancing will begin at 8:30 p.m. and continue to 1 a.m., says Evans.

His own big local dance band will entertain, as will "The Teen Kings," a popular band from the Northwest, and Dennis Wayne and his Col-Lee-Jets. Music will be continuous, with no intermissions.

The Evans band has entertained in the Klamath Basin and elsewhere for 30 years. Evans features smooth old favorites and leaves other styles to the other two bands.

The Kings feature popular hits whether or not rock and roll. They have appeared in the auditorium twice before this year and have proved popular, says Evans.

"The Singer With the Silver Shoes," Wayne and his Jets also are appearing here for the third time. The band's music is similar to that produced by the Kings.

The dance will be Evans' final offering at the auditorium before the last Saturday in January or the first Saturday of February. He has promoted lavish holiday dances frequently during previous Christmas seasons and says they have been well attended.

On The Record

KLAMATH FALLS BIRTHS

BOYS
SMITH—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jim L. Smith, December 17 in Klamath Valley Hospital; a boy, weighing 9 lbs., 4 ozs.

GIRLS
CASTLE—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Castle, December 17 in Klamath Valley Hospital; a girl, weighing 6 lbs., 10 ozs.

COLSTON—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Carmen H. Colston, December 17 in Klamath Valley Hospital; a girl, weighing 6 lbs., 15 ozs.

HANKINS—Born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Verne Hankins, December 17 in Klamath Valley Hospital; a girl, weighing 7 lbs., 11 ozs.

1959 ROUNDUP Boys: 565 Girls: 498

WOMAN RESCUES BEAR

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (UPI) — Mrs. Theodore Weissinger Saturday rescued "Boo Boo," a 50-pound black bear cub who was raised in captivity and doomed to death by conservation officials who feared he could not survive forest life.

Mrs. Weissinger said she felt Boo Boo would get along fine with her three dogs, her monkey and her goat.

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CHAMBER COMMENTS

by GEORGE T. CALLISON
Assistant Mgr.
KLAMATH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

With the annual barrage of calendars in full swing, three observations already occur regarding the 1960 batch. Some of them are beautiful; all of them are utilitarian; and it's a rare case that the photography or painting on a calendar depicts an Oregon scene, let alone anything pertaining to Klamath Falls or Klamath County.

The first notable exception to come to our attention thus far is the calendar issued by the Bend-Portland Truck Service, which has, for its art work, a beautiful pastoral scene, photographed near Klamath Falls. The chamber's copy of the calendar was delivered personally this week by the local Bend-Portland manager, Charlie Bane, who also is the chamber's immediate past president. Copies of the calendar—with its color photo of the Lost River area just east of Oleno—will be distributed to business and industrial offices throughout Oregon.

Speaking of the chamber's immediate past president — he is traditionally charged with responsibility for the weather in Klamath County for the full year following his term as chamber president. Looking back over 1959, it would seem that Charlie has done a pretty good job. You can't please everyone, of course, and there is no doubt the summer was too hot and dry for the dry farmers. During hunting season there were those who complained it was so dry under foot that a forked horn could hear you take a step a mile away, and the boys out after the ducks and geese grouched (no pun intended) that the weather was strictly for the birds... bluebirds, that is. But for the fellow who likes to look up at the azure sky, thump his chest and exclaim, "Man, what wonderful weather!"... or walk down the street, greeting his friends and

neighbors with "Beautiful day, isn't it?" this has been a vintage year. And for him, Charlie has done a superlative job.

1959 was a vintage year in other ways, too, particularly with reference to business. Employment has been on a high level all year. Most retail merchants have reported their sales volume to be substantially above last year's. As reported in this paper's news columns earlier this week, bank deposits for the first 11 months of the year hit an all-time high of almost 363 million dollars... just 3½ million dollars short of the total for all of 1958, and 36 million dollars ahead of the November 30 mark for last year. Postal receipts, parking meter receipts and the value represented in building permits within the city of Klamath Falls are all up. Water users and telephone installations show marked increases over previous years.

With nothing on the horizon at the moment to indicate otherwise, 1960 looms as another banner year for the Klamath Basin. And if soon to be immediate past president Bob Mest does as well as Charlie Bane has done, it will be another great year for the chest thumpers and sidewalk greeters with lots of rain and snow in the mountains and hills, and blue sky and sunshine in the Basin.

DIPSY "DOE-DLE"

PETOSKEY, Mich. (UPI) — Hunters George Parker and George Weaver proudly told today of their successful rescue and treatment of a half-drowned doe. They pulled out the doe, which had fallen through river ice, and gave it a healthy slug of brandy. The doe shivered to its feet and weaved off into the woods.

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Housing Start Upswing, Seen By Industrialist

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

NEW YORK (UPI)—Just about every prognosticator who has given his blueprint of 1960 has said housing starts will decline in the new year, mostly because of high money rates.

And now comes an industrialist who says just the opposite. He looks for a small rise numerically in the housing starts and a bigger rise in dollar value of housing.

David O. Kennedy, president of Kentic, Inc., says that in 1959 housing starts will set an all-time high in dollar volume.

"Next year," he says, "larger and better houses will be a contributing factor to the continuing high level of dollar volume."

Kennedy bases his optimistic forecasts for healthy housing in 1960 on three factors:

—Demand for new housing will be increased by continued general prosperity.

—Quality housing will gain a greater share of the market.

—The spectacular rise in population will create new housing needs.

"The level of building in this country since World War II, while high, has by no means satisfied the market," he says. "Meanwhile, the top economists of the country, both in government and industry, agree that the Gross National Product will go over the \$500 billion mark within the next few months.

"More than a million more households will have 1960 incomes of more than \$5,000, incomes which should qualify them for new home purchases."

He believes the credit pinch is approaching its peak.

He notes that higher interest rates did not place a severe drag on the market this year, and he doubts if they will in 1960.

Kennedy believes that in the near future it will be easier for families to trade in their older houses for larger, better, and more expensive ones.

He holds the mass market no longer means a tasteless market in this country. The family segment with \$5,000 yearly earnings, which will buy a home with a maximum \$13,000 mortgage, is demanding new housing, he says.

"By this time next year," Kennedy says, "the population is expected to increase to more than 130 million against 170 million currently.

"Americans are marrying younger than ever, men at 22 and women at 20. And the Census Bureau gives obvious reasons—increased economic prosperity and greater job security.

"Marriages in the country are up 3.6 per cent for the first nine months this year over the corresponding period a year ago. During the first nine months of 1959 an estimated 3,188,000 live births were registered—higher than the past record for the period of 1957."

He believes that young couples

will play increasingly prominent roles as consumers as the population expands.

"They are going to take over the limelight. These couples, under 30 years of age, are the backbone of the market for consumer goods."

"There has been—and will continue to be—a rapid increase in the proportion of young people who establish separate households."

"When speaking of the average family, you think in terms of father, mother and two children. And when the children grow to a marriageable age and leave the parents, the market is doubled. All this will have a decisive influence in terms of demand for consumer products."

"Furthermore, the decentralization of industry, pushed by the tremendous federal highway program from coast to coast, and industry's broadening plant expansion, will shift many thousands of workers into areas new to them, creating a still greater demand for new homes, house furnishings, and the myriad services revolving around the American home."

Oldest stone house in use in the United States is believed to be the Whitfield House built in 1639 in Guilford, Conn. The Rev. Henry Whitfield used it both as a church meeting house and as a garrison to fight off Indians.

SENDS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

MOSCOW (UPI) — Nina Khrushchev, wife of the Soviet Premier, expressed hope Friday that contacts between Soviet and American women would be broadened to produce "peace on earth and clear skies over the heads of our children." The Soviet first lady made the statement in an article she wrote for the magazine Soviet Woman as her "Christmas message" to the American people.

EXPERTS IN BAGHDAD

MOSCOW (UPI) — A delegation of Soviet building experts has arrived in Baghdad to aid the Iraqi government in the construction of industrial enterprises. Tass news agency reported Friday.

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