

1937

Toyland Specials

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Recommended Citation

Rooke, Doris and Betty, Jo (1937) "Toyland Specials," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 17 : No. 5 , Article 7.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol17/iss5/7>

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Toyland Specials

by Doris Rooke and Jo Betty

EYES wide in anticipation, Larry Wendell at nursery school said, "Only three more Saturdays until Christmas and then Santa Claus leaves the packages and we open them and there are presents inside!"

Your gift to a child may be well chosen or it may be just something picked up in the zero hour when further postponement is impossible. From the toy news front come ideas for gifts that will make St. Nick even more beloved.

Big furry dogs with real collars and leashes are especially exciting, if Santa Claus is generous. Hobby horses are made of rag, with spindly legs and shoe button eyes. The old teddy bear, on a much larger scale, is wooly, cuddly, and lovable. Trains have gone modern. Square blocks for the cars and big circles make the wheels, all in a vivid array of colors.

Then there are the dolls, many are of cloth, stuffed to a pleasing plumpness—a dolly really adapted to the take-to-bed complex. They are of all sizes, with bright red frocks and aprons, quaint yarn hair, and rosebud mouths.

Blocks have been elaborated upon with surprising results. Many varieties of cylinders, squares, or balls are filled with removable parts that are fun to play with and good to look at.

Wooden animals, miniature houses, railway wagons, automobiles, as well as metal toys, especially marionettes



A little child with laughing look:
A lovely white, unwritten book.
—J. Manfield

and dolls, enjoy a large demand abroad, as well as in the United States.

Non-poisonous enamelled hardwood balls and pieces make funny animals

and people. Strung on heavy cord or single parts easily fitted together. The world's monopoly is held by an exclusive maker of fascinating games and wooden building sets such as miniature cities, shops, rooms, mills, railways, airplane and motorcars.

Books are a favorite gift for children. Stories of Iowa farm life by Phil Stang should be among the books read 50 years from now. Besides *Hank; the Moose*, there is his new one, *High Water*, (Dodd, Mead and Co., New York City, (\$2.00). Both books contain naturalness, humor and absurdity. Some of the same characters are present in both books, but Stang has added Mexico, the donkey, in *High Water*. The Kurt Weise drawings add spice.

For a seven-year-old girl who is full of vim, *Pepe and the Parrot* by Ellis Credle (Thomas Nelson and Sons, New York City, \$2.00) is just the thing. She will delight in the adventures of a little Mexican dog who is fooled by a parrot. The author has illustrated the book with modern dash.

Shawneen and the Gander by Richard Bennett, (Doubleday, Doron, and Company, New York City, \$2.00) will please boys or girls about ten years old who like color and feeling in writing. It is an Irish story of a boy and a gander who made a fortune.

The best way, of course, to discover what gift would please a child most is to talk to him and listen to his conversations with other children. His gift should be as pre-planned as an adult's gift. And a child is twice as thrilled to receive what he has secretly wanted.

A Gracious Lady

(Continued from page 4)

directions concerning her home. To the new girls who helped her she gave brief little typewritten notes telling them where to find this or that, where to order things, whom to call in case the plumbing leaked, or what have you. She noted the regular activities of the family, and drew up plans for the general character of the meals. All this she did in a day before it was accepted procedure for a home to be run with efficiency.

She laid out a regular weekly program (shades of the schedule coming back again!) Tuesday was her afternoon at home. Any callers were welcome to see her then and they knew it. Between the ins and outs of her visitors she checked on her household, laid her plans like a general. If she entertained she did it on Tuesday. Monday evenings she read to an uncle who had become blind, but who was very much interested in the advancement of science. Friday nights she went to the theater. Her friends knew this and they often

took seats near the Richards to have a bit of a chat during the intermissions. She stuck so consistently to her schedule, except when she was out of town, that those who knew her were soon unconsciously observing it too. Is not this a tip for a modern schedule maker who wishes to reduce interruptions to a minimum?

Each night she listed the things to be done the next day and the order in which they were to occur.

All of these suggestions showed how she disposed of her work but none shows how she made and kept her hundreds of friends. With her, to meet a person was to become interested in him. The needs and likes of her friends were with her all the time. Magazines, books and letters of introduction she distributed like a Lady Bountiful.

Long before Dale Carnegie ever said that to remember people's birthdays was a bit of good psychology Mrs. Richards kept track of them in a little book. She was undeniably a sentimentalist about birthdays and anniversaries. She remembered not only her friends but friends of her friends.

Her house, without the aid of many servants or many guest rooms, was always open. Someone who knew her said that "she made the guest feel as though he could not come at the wrong time". A rival for many modern mottoes for hospitality! She did this in the midst of engagements which complicated themselves and work which kept on piling up and up.

If her house got too full, she merely slipped out after saying her goodnights, took a room at the College Club, and then slipped back again before breakfast.

She could have been no busier, and yet somehow she seemed to escape the curse that modern times has laid on busyness. And though she has been gone these many years; her life is an inspiration to all the recurring generations of young home economists.

An efficient door holder has been made of an extremely flexible sheet of metal fastened to two rubber feet, which cling to the floor. It is easily slipped into position under the door and will prevent its moving either way.