

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### No Barrel Staves For Modern Youth

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Old, familiar faces with a new look is the theme of the modern toy department. Fathers and mothers, aunts and uncles, and especially grandparents, shopping for the Small Fry are flabbergasted at what has been done with some of the toys they had in their own youthful days.

Take the common sight of the bicycle. In Grandpa's day it was a contraption with two wheels, two pedals, one seat and a set of handlebars.

His son grew into a slight change—a basket was made available for the front of the bike to make trips home from the corner grocery less of a hazard.

Some bikes even blossomed out with a small platform over the rear wheel where other packages could be tied.

HEADLIGHTS came into popularity, with sound devices to send the pedestrian scurrying out of the way.

But Johnny's and Janie's bikes—what are they?

The young cowboy has a beautiful western saddle for a seat. He steers the bike with a pair of horns' right from a Texas lango-horn, or piece between the arm of a mustang head decorating the center of the handlebars.

There are saddle bags to drape each side of the rear wheel; scabbards to be slung from the frame for—uh—revolvers—rifles—and even a hook on which to hang his rope.

GRANDPA USED to slide down hill on a couple of barrel staves nailed to an old board. Steel fun-runners came along for his son, even a sled-sock could glide with reasonable accuracy.

The grandchildren, though, are zipping down the hill on shiny, fancy-looking deals made to look

stockings and toes from shoes pushing it about.

NOT ANY more. Little Mr. 1954 opens a box with a wonderful assortment of pieces, a few tools, a chart and the challenge to build his own natty sportster.

Not only that, but after it's built, it makes its own noise, has its own lighting system, supplied by a flashlight battery, and can be driven around almost at will while the master sits in one spot and pushes some buttons.

He can raise and lower the top, turn corners, go forward or back up, stop and start where he will. He can even fill the radiator and have the questionable pleasure of changing a tire now and then.

THE ONLY thing he doesn't do is run out of gas, which can be answered by the battery wearing out at a crucial moment.

The young man's artillery is a far cry from the old days, too. His daddy was dangerous when he received a gun that popped corks with a fairly satisfying "bang."

The cork gun age today is practically the toddler group. The other grand hunters have air guns, if they are inclined to be old-fashioned, or, if truly modern, ray throats and wore knees from guns.

These give out with crackling noises and an array of sparks enough for a minor Independence Day celebration.

SHOULD THE lad have a military mind, his gun is an authentic job, with a bayonet, bolt action mechanism and of course a web sling. There are machine guns, cannons and mortars to satisfy his patriotic instincts, as well.

No longer does the lad manufacture a bow and arrow from a bent limb and a few straight bits of lumber. No, sir, he has a tapered bow, feathered arrows and a quiver to carry them in. A finger guard and wrist sheath protect him (or her) from string burns.

But what about little Janie in the new look field—has she been

forgotten? Indeed not!

MOTHER HAD her little house-keeper toys, but as far as sewing went, hers were strictly "make-believe." Not her daughter. That little electric stove really cooks, the coffee pot perks and the iron irons. The sweeper picks up dirt and even has a headlight just like mother's. The sewing machine sews and the washer washes. The models are duplicates of those which grace the homemaking department of any good store.

Little Janie's dolls do not ride in a high, filmy, spidery looking affair. They nestle snug and comfy in an English pram, that even adjusts so they may sit up and view the passing scene.

THE DOLLS themselves are no longer stiff, hard, cold bodies with

staring china faces.

They are cuddly, flexible and life-like. They cry, they walk, they talk, they have their hair "done," they eat and drink, laugh and sleep, and have their dummies changed.

They do just about everything Janie does except have the measles and grow up.

Those dolls have wardrobes with costumes for every kind of event from a skating party to a formal wedding. They have proper closets to keep them in, and, like any modern girl, their own supply of beauty aids.

THEY HAVE dressers, inner spring mattresses, on their beds and all kinds of modern furniture. Some dolls even have their own cooking and home making supplies.



A BIRMINGHAM realtor and a Birmingham home shared honors of a "first" recently when the Charles J. Vanhook Realty-Bldg. Woodward, became the first realty firm to take advantage of a new method of FHA loan processing on the sale of a home at 1958 Derby. Working through the suburban office of Homer Warren & Company, Vanhook speeded up the processing of his sale of the home from four to five weeks. Pictured here are Vanhook, standing, and Wendell G. Edwards, Detroit FHA director as the loan is signed.



MR. AND MRS. ROY DODGE, directors of the Birmingham Arthur Murray studio, 136 N. Woodward, have been winners twice in the seven weeks that Detroit's Grande Ballroom dance contest has been under way. They have been a winning entry in both the rumba and tango contests in the series that will run 32 weeks to select finalists for the Motor City's entry to the Harvest Moon Ball in New York city. The contests, open to both amateurs and professionals, are held each Sunday evening.

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This is action that comes from the principle of variable pitch propellers used on modern planes. Their propeller blades change "pitch" for take-off—and cut hundreds of feet off the time required to lift a plane from a runway.

And the amazing fact is—in a 1955

Buick Dynaflo Drive there are 20 little propeller-like blades that also change their pitch, just like the propeller blades of a plane.

This is a transmission engineer's dream of heaven. A build-up of momentum as smooth as flowing oil—and almost as quick as lightning—plus better gas mileage in cruising range. It's what the whole automobile industry has been shooting for—and Buick has it.

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there's only one thing for you to do. Try out a 1955 Buick, and soon.

Try it out for quick action, as we've mentioned. Try it out for room and comfort and ride. And by all means, cast an admiring eye on its style—for it beats the high-fashion Buicks which set the pattern in the successful year just ended.

We're waiting and eager to hear from you soon. So drop in—or give us a call. We promise you a thrill that no other car can deliver.

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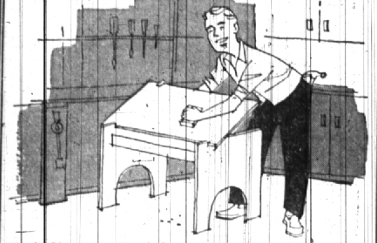
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