

Visit to Toyland Brings Back Memories of Childhood

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I never realized how old I was getting until one day last week when my little niece Jackie asked me, "When you were a little girl what did you get from Santa Claus?"

Going back a few years, I remember getting the "old standbys," a Betsy Wetsy doll, buggy, dieher and other little girl toys.

IT SEEMS FUNNY how times change so quickly. I remember as a child asking my mother what she got for Christmas. Reminiscing, she mentioned that the children didn't receive as many toys as they do today, but did acquire fruit, nuts and other goodies for Christmas.

While on a recent trip to a local toyland, I mentioned to a friend that the toys in "our days" are now all antiques.

ENTERING THE toy department, I noticed kitchen appliances true to life for the "miniature wife." A deluxe kitchen set with almost 100 accessories for unlimited play. The stove contained a nine-piece aluminum cooking set, mixing bowl, cookie cutters and shakers.

The refrigerator featured plastic bottles, bowls, pitchers, butter dish and dummy food. The sink appeared very real with a dish rack, dishes, cloth, towel, apron and other accessories.

ALSO DISPLAYED in the lassie department were dolls of "most every size. In the corner was a little girl with bright red hair, who goes to school in the very latest thing, a grey shag sweater, pleated red plaid skirt and black knee socks.

A few feet away was a perky toddler almost the size of a two-year-old sister, attired in an electric blue cotton print over which she wore a lace-trimmed pinafore and white leotards underneath.

While eyeing the dolls, I spotted an "old favorite," Shirley Temple, as beautiful as when the real Shirley was America's favorite little girl.

AND THEN there was poor Marybel, the jointed doll who gets well after make-believe accidents and illnesses, complete with crutches, casts, bandages, spots for measles and chickenpox. Her little friend taking care of her was Joanie the nurse with flirting eyes, curly lashes and a crisp white uniform.

Working my way toward the laddie's section, I found the traffic really terrific. A five-year-old hot-rodder whizzed by in a Sky Cart using forward and reverse speeds

Junior Scientists Explode with Joy When They Get This

Boom! Zowie! Oh, what fun it will be to have a "real" professional chemistry lab, so complete that any budding scientist can perform experiments in safe atomic energy.

Junior can create a spectacular color fountain, make dyes and even make soap. (He should be so reckless.)

He can perform chromatography tests (analysis of colors, as any physicist knows); fingerprinting; glass blowing and who knows what all.

In case an experimenter runs out of ideas, the four-panel metal cabinet comes with exciting books full of ideas and loads and loads of equipment.

Goody Two Shoes Wears Pantaloons And Real Spats

A-w-w-w Isn't she sweet? Won't any little girl just love this technician Pollyanna? She's all of 32 inches tall, with jointed arms and legs and she can turn her head to watch her new mommy.

Her clothes, my dear, are just be-root-i-ful. She has a gingham dress trimmed with lace and velvet ribbon and fetching, matching pantaloon with lots of lace too.

She's so old-fashioned. Did you notice those tiny feet in patent leather shoes with high-buttoned white spats and that straw bonnet?

Won't Christmas ever come?

and-free wheeling. Not far behind him, his brother gained ground in a Gym Dandy Surrey with a Fringe on Top.

WHILE DODGING the two brothers, I almost got clipped in the head by their cousin, who was testing a Curtiss Pusher, a vintage model for OPEN AIR FLYING.

Edging my way across the room, I almost stumbled on a freckle-faced boy, who was very contentedly constructing "little Cobo Hall," while "Bobo" was getting his head knocked off, but it didn't matter,

he just bounced back for more. For the "Doctor of Tomorrow" there is a very unique kit, The Visible Woman. The kit features 206 bones of skeleton, components of the brain, chamber of the heart, bronchial branches inside the lung and other parts of the human body. A very practical gift for a rainy day.

AFTER BIDDING farewell to Marybel, Joanie and Bobo, "Wee lassies" were homeward bound to reminisce our happy years of childhood.

Just Plunk The Keys

A special manipulative toy this year is a cash register with colorful plastic keys.

When the keys are pressed, sales-indicators picturing Humpty Dumpty, Jack and Jill, Three Little Pigs and Big Bad Wolf snap up in position.

Then, with a turn of the crank, a bell rings, the cash drawer pops open and the sales-indicators drop down.

The drawer holds three wood coins, each fitting a different slot. The coins drop back into the drawer.

Built of wood, the toy has an unbreakable acetate window, polyethylene keys and a jam-proof crank mechanism. Its enamel is non-toxic, and its lithographed finish features instructive color and number combinations.

The toy is designed for pre-schoolers, aged 2 to 6.

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