

# Dad Buys a Toy

By KEN WEAVER  
Managing Editor

He wanted to buy his child a Christmas gift.

The young father stood before the dime-store counter, looking steadily at the many toys on display.

He picked up a toy car, studied it, turned it over, spun the wheels around, put it back.

HE REACHED for a missile set, complete with launching pad; looked at the price tag; reflected a bit; replaced it.

His eyes rested on a gun-and-holster set. Pulling the six-shooter from the holster, he twirled the chamber around, pulled the hammer back and fingered the trigger.

After firing the gun a couple more times, he put it back and

moved along the toy counter until he came to the electric train display.

HE PUSHED a switch and watched as the engine and five cars chugged along the tracks, passed through a tunnel and clacked over a bridge.

He pushed another button and a second train began moving.

He watched, fascinated, as the first train stopped at a crossing to allow the second to pass and thus proceed safely on its way.

THEN HE walked across the aisle to another counter, picked up a life-like doll that "walks, talks and wets"—and bought it for his little girl.

# Dad VS the Christmas Tree

By IRMA N. DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Did you ever wonder why most families put up their tree on Christmas Eve?

The answer is simple. The kids, for once, are in bed early, putting them out of the danger zone, out of hearing and out of father's way.

Take a typical home. Mother has long since learned to set the scene properly. Right near the walling, she has placed all the necessary equipment: axe, saw, screw driver, hammer, rope and plenty of bandage.

And, oh yes, the battered tree stand.

ENTER FATHER with the tree, already minus a few branches. His face is suitably grim. Mother can only remember one Christmas Eve when it wasn't their first.

She has already moved everything out of the room except that atrocious wedding present from his Aunt Martha. It escapes damage year after year, but mother

keeps on hoping.

Father carefully lays the tree on the floor—he hasn't reached the throwing stage yet. He casts an appraising eye at the tree's length, measures it against the ceiling, carefully notches the trunk and begins to saw. He hits a knot and pauses for a bandage.

THE KIDS STIR. Mother says, "Dear, your language."

Father hoists the tree up and into the stand. The trunk is too thick. He sits down and hacks timber off the base. Back in the stand for another try. Eventually it fits and the tree is upright, more or less.

Its top folds against the ceiling, right next to last year's paint scars. The tree wavers and slowly begins to lean over. Mother lunges, pushes it erect and hangs on while father strains to tighten the screws.

"Got it," he yelps and lets go. So does the tree.

Father picks up his glasses, picks up the tree, hits the trunk with

the hammer. The tree falls the other way.

THE AIR IS BLUE. Mother props up the tree and father starts over. This time the tree stands still but the stand doesn't.

The tree misses the wedding present. "This figures," mother mutters to herself.

At last father manages to get the tree upright and reasonably steady. He scans the woodwork and finally spots last year's nail holes. While mother shudders he pounds in new nails and connects tree, trunk, rope and nails in a glorious welter of knots.

He carefully rotates the tree hoping to hide the ropes. Never mind, tinsel will cover it up—a little, anyway.

MOTHER discreetly brings out several strings of lights. Father begins untangling and testing.

Guess who gets the first shock. Not mother. You can't shock her any more. Father used up all his best words years ago when he put up their first tree.

## Civil War, Politics, TV Game Topics

Thought-provoking, educational, competitive and really diversified—the wide variety of games fresh from Santa's pack are all this and real fun, too.

Games of all kinds draw their inspiration from Civil War history, today's global politics, TV show formats, juvenile book classics and big time sports.

A NEW AND LARGE group of games is based on strategy. From the pages of history come such novelties as the "American Heritage Game of the Civil War" in which an astute armchair general can achieve a victory for the South.

This strategic foray is completely documented by an accompanying outline of Civil War history.

ANOTHER GAME taking maneuvering skill is "Stratego"; its playing pieces are elegantly-decorated figures representing Marshals of France from the Napoleonic era.

A topical game—"Summit"—has its players manipulating "foreign aid," conduct drives to obtain spheres of influence and trying to dominate a summit conference. All reminiscent of contemporary headlines.

GAMES INSPIRED by favorite TV shows are popular; there's a new edition of "Concentration"; "Video Village" which represents a TV show stage; while Deputy Dawg, Shotgun Slade and The Rifleman are heroes in the western game sector.

Every youngster can try to be come a millionaire with the new "Game of Life"—developed by Art Linkletter of radio and TV fame.

GAMES WHICH reproduce favorite outdoor sports with complete realism are also destined for the best seller list.

Among these are a family skeet shoot set, with targets that go up into the air by the player's foot on a pneumatic device; National Football League Electric Football Game that provides realistic action for armchair coaches; "Fun House" and "Hit the Duck" are typical carnival sports games; each stand five feet high for "more fun than a circus."

FROM JUVENILE book classics come such novelties as Babar, the Bobbsey Twins, the Happy Little Train and other favorites — to perform their exploits on game boards.

Dear Santa:  
I am a little boy and I have just come from Philadelphia with my Mommy. We are going to have a Christmas tree and I would like very much to have a train that whistles.

I will leave a lunch for you when you come Christmas Eve. Thank you very much.

Cluny Yesko

Dear Santa:  
I am a little boy and my name is Duke Marlin. I would like a Diesel train for Christmas. We have a nice fireplace for you to come down and my stocking will be hung ready for you. Thank you very much.

Duke Marlin



Bring The Kids And See  
The Greatest Exhibit of Toys!

	Reg. Price	Sale Price
Eich-A-Sketch	\$ 4.00	\$2 <sup>99</sup>
Marx Blue & Gray	\$15.00	\$12 <sup>88</sup>
Marx Lone Ranger	\$ 4.00	\$2 <sup>88</sup>
Chaffy Kathy Doll	\$18.00	\$13 <sup>88</sup>
Lie Detector Game	\$ 5.00	\$3 <sup>99</sup>
Civil War Cannon	\$12.00	\$9 <sup>88</sup>
Aurora Race Set	\$25.00	\$21 <sup>88</sup>

DISCOUNTS  
ON MANY OTHER FINE TOYS

# ALICE'S WONDERLAND

595 E Maple (Next to Krogers)

MI 6-1113

Be Sure  
To Browse In  
Our  
Clothing Dept.  
Boys Sizes to 6x  
Girls Sizes to 14