

Santa's Pen Pals Keep Mailmen Smiling



Talking Hand Puppets Are Kiddie Favorites

Four of the top favorites of children's television—Mr. Ed, Bugs Bunny, and Bob Clampett's TV cartoon characters, Cecil (the Seaside Sea Serpent) and Dishonest John — are now appealing hand puppets by Mattel, Inc., California-based toymakers. The hand puppets, introduced new-for-1963 by Mattel at the New York Toy Fair, each say many different phrases at the pull of a Chatty-Ring. The phrases are spoken at random, through Mattel's patented voice unit, which operates without batteries. The vocabulary of each character is tailored to his television personality with readily-

identified statements such as Bugs Bunny's "Eh... What's up Doc?". Bugs Bunny has a plush body and a vinly face, and is 15 inches long. Mr. Ed has a soft, pliable vinyl head, movable mouth, plush body and yarn mane, and is 12-1/2 inches long. Cecil (the Seaside Sea Serpent) is 13-1/2 inches of cuddle-plush sea serpent body topped by wiggly eyes and a movable mouth. Dishonest John, who is 12-1/2 inches long, has a vinyl head, movable mouth, a villain's hat, soft pliable molded hands and a cloth body.

Mailmen can tell when Christmas time is near. Their bag gets heavier and heavier with "Letters to Santa" as the big day approaches. Sneaking a look into a cooperative Birmingham mailman's bag makes for a lot of chuckles over the little people and their scrawls. One brief note reads: Dear Santa: We have moved to 6832 Woodside Trail. From Audrey Horasan. "Mike" sends his love to Santa, along with a page-long thesis on his well-known feats: "Santa is nice. He brings a lot of toys to children and girls. He will read your letter. If your Christmas tree isn't decorated, he will decorate it. He will come with his reindeer and bring toys to you. Santa is very jolly and he comes down the chimney. He gets very sooty and we all love him. He lives at the North Pole with the brownies who help him make toys. I have tried to be a good boy."

One letter, officially mailed in a National Gypsum Company envelope, is co-signed by sisters Marie and Kathleen.

"Dear Santa Claus. I want a easy weaver and a desk. I hope you will come to my house Santa Clause? I will leaf cookies for you Santa Claus. Good bye Santa Claus. I will see you at Christmas."

One young man graciously asks for a choo choo, umbrella, tella-

fone... all for his sister, Ann. He also promises that Ann will give Santa a kiss for all his trouble. Perhaps as a small incentive, a gloriously-colored picture of a sunflower is enclosed... probably decorated for Ann, too.

Most of the sloping, painstakingly-scrawled notes begin with "please bring" and end with "thank you," probably insisted upon by manner-conscious parents.

Many youngsters, however, add a P.S. which they think might help them out even more... "We have both been good."

New Plastic Kit Enables Children to Get Reproductions

Vac-U-Form, a new make-and-play toy concept which forms plastic reproductions of any small object, as well as from a variety of standard molds, was introduced at the New York Toy Fair in March as the initial entry into the hobby field by Mattel, Inc., California-based toymakers.

Vac-U-Form enables youngsters (and adults, too) to make in complete safety a variety of such articles as boats, planes, cars, jewelry, cabins, decorations, signs, and comic buttons. It comes complete with 50 individual molds, clay for making additional molds, 65



'Jolly Jumper'

This happy fellow bounces a-long up and down, as his ample mouth opens and closes to make a comical "croak-croak" sound! Plastic fedora perched on top his unbreakable wood body. Big balloon polyethylene rear wheels. For boys and girls 1 to 3.

A Christmas Ring

To carry that near and dear feeling at Christmas, a ring, whether it be a simple sterling friendship ring, a birthstone ring or the all-important diamond engagement ring, rates high on the Christmas gift list.

sheets of colored, clear and metalized plastic, paints, cement and a detailed 28-page instruction booklet.

Also available are individual mold kits and plastic paks which provide items for making additional articles and parts for larger objects.



TINY CHATTY BROTHER

Chatty Brother Joins Talking Set

Tiny Chatty Brother, a 15-inch-tall blond talking boy doll, has been introduced by Mattel, Inc., California-based toymakers, as a companion doll for Tiny Chatty Baby, to expand the play concept to that of Tiny Chatty Twins. Dressed in a one-piece romper suit with blue-and-white striped top, blue shorts, and a striped cap, Tiny Chatty Brother has rooted hair that can be brushed and combed; moveable arms, legs and head; and eyes which close when he is laid down to sleep.

Like his twin sister, he laughs, cries and talks baby talk at the pull of his Chatty-Ring. According to Mattel, Tiny Chatty Brother will be available either singly or in a set with Tiny Chatty Baby.

Science Wonders Found in 'Mirrors'

Stimulating experiments with unbreakable metal mirrors are described in the colorful 48 page book. Children develop basic ideas about light and simple geometry. In addition to 4 metal mirrors, the Book-Lab includes 2 stands, parts for assembling a cardboard periscope, ruler, plastic sheets, and specially imprinted cards for measuring angles. The comprehensive book includes chapters on making a simple kaleidoscope, image formation, optical illusions, measuring angles, mirror reading and writing, regular and diffuse reflection, and science project ideas.

THE BEST of the world's treasures of toys are gathered in a dazzling array at The Thunderbird Shop in Bloomfield Plaza. Here you will find toys and games to delight children of all ages... beguiling marionettes, exquisite dolls, magnificent wood carvings, a marvelous collection of juvenile books, castles and toy soldiers... and a wealth of challenge for the mechanical and scientific minded boy or girl. Come see them all today at THE THUNDERBIRD SHOP in Bloomfield Shopping Plaza... West Maple Road at Telegraph...

