

DOLLS TAKE UP TREK TO MARKET

Twenty Million on Way to Open Christmas Shopping Season.

New York.—A trek of 20,000,000 dolls from American factories to retail shops throughout the country is now taking place, preparatory to the coming Christmas shopping season. And what a galaxy of puppets to delight the youngsters of America. Over 10,000 types and styles to satisfy the most diverse tastes and inclinations. Indeed, a doll anthropologist would have a difficult task in classifying them.

Many new faces and forms, to say nothing of new styles of dresses, hats and other articles of apparel, are to be seen in this year's bumper crop of American dolls. Characters from comic strips and fairy stories have stepped to life in the doll world, to delight thousands of youngsters on Christmas morn. Many dolls with faces fashioned after modern conceptions of American artists and sculptors have joined the host.

Increased Longevity.

This great variety is said to result from the increased longevity of American dolls. Since the perfection of the unbreakable head in this country, the doll death rate has dropped to a fraction of its former figure when most doll heads were made of baked clay. Children's doll families, having new additions each year, have grown immensely, until it is now estimated that the doll population of the United States is close to 100,000,000. Some girls have a dozen or more dolls.

Confronted with the extremely low mortality rate of their product, American doll manufacturers are successfully maintaining an increased birth rate by producing each season dolls with new personalities, so that a girl with a family of dolls can easily find many new characters to adopt. Unless the doll makers did this, birth control of dolls would be necessary.

Doll dresses will reflect the new mode this year and will be considerably longer than those of the past few years, covering up the dimpled knees that up to now were so proudly displayed. Dresses with higher waists and princess lines are already in evidence.

Less than one doll in five will be a blond in Santa's pack this season. In America the race of blond dolls, like the American Indian, is slowly vanishing. Twenty years ago four out of five dolls were flaxen haired, but now for some reason or other mothers prefer brunettes for their children's toys. Practically all American dolls have bobbed hair. There are, however, fewer boyish bobs and shingles, most of the dolls wearing their hair with ends curled at the base of the neck, thus following the style started by girls at Vassar college a year or so ago.

Talking Dolls Popular.

Talking dolls, so popular in America for many years, will be well represented in this year's crop. The self-acting ma-ma voice, operated by tilting the doll forward, was developed in America, and in conjunction with the unbreakable head, is probably the chief reason for the rapid strides made by the domestic industry during the past score of years. As sound makes motion pictures more real, so does the ma-ma voice add the final touch of reality to dolls. Enunciating the first word of childhood, "ma-ma," it continues to be an important feature of the best sellers.

In buying dolls one should know that doll sound making devices are of two general types—ma-ma and crying voices. Dolls that say ma-ma have a voice which emits a fairly realistic two-syllable sound like ma-ma. Dolls with crying voices give forth a prolonged monotone crying sound. The difference can be easily discerned by tilting the dolls forward to work the voice mechanism. Recent investigations by the American Fair Trade association have disclosed that frequently dolls with crying voices are sold as ma-ma dolls. Such dolls naturally cannot say ma-ma, but merely cry or wail. Hence parents buying dolls for their children should test the vocal powers of their prospective puppet grandchildren.

During the past few seasons the demand for dolls of the infant type has greatly diminished. Whether children are mimicking their elders (the birth rate of the United States has decreased considerably during the past five years) and frowning upon such symbolism of motherhood, is difficult to say. In any event, this year will see less infant dolls sold. Since mothers, after all is said, are the real purchasers of dolls in the shops, it is barely possible that the lessened demand for infant type dolls reflect waning interest in things maternal on the part of American femininity.

Radio Fan in Hungary Stabbed for Night Tunes

Budapest.—Enthusiasm for playing his radio cost a machinist, M. Muha, his life recently. M. Muha had his set turned on at all hours of the night despite the Hungarian law forbidding radios after 10 p. m. His neighbor, a house painter, whose sleep was ruined by the playing, called on M. Muha and ordered him to shut off the set. M. Muha refused, whereupon the painter stabbed him fatally and demolished the radio before he fled.

Male Critic Severe on Work of Women Poets

If an effort were made to determine what elements constitute feminine poetry, one would name first its chief characteristic—subjectivity. When a woman writes poetry her emotions generally center around herself and she is only interested in the world as something that reflects favorably or unfavorably on her own individuality. It is usually favorable and when unfavorable, wistfully agonized, writes Herbert G. Brunchen, in the North American Review.

As an artist it is rarely that a woman can translate her emotions objectively; in other words to comprehend the world and the human beings that are part of it, not as they touch herself, but as they affect the great lot of humanity.

Feminine poetry, moreover, when it is cheerful, is generally so in a superficial way; it is too often over-refined through an erroneous and typically feminine conception of the difference between refinement and truth. It is embroidery poetry, very apt to be sentimental and cloyingly sweet.

And only in rare instances does one find a poem written by a woman where the unpleasantness and even tragic truths of human relationships have not been carefully censored or glossed over.

Cultivate Serenity to Fight Mental Fatigue

Mental fatigue cuts down efficiency and spoils happiness. American life with its high-power speed for both work and play produces an unusual amount of mental fatigue. To aid in the cultivation of more serene habits Dr. Lauren H. Smith, writing in Hygeia Magazine, makes the following suggestions:

1. When we work, let us keep our interest in it and make it pleasurable.
2. When we play, let us enter into it for all it is worth without regard for anything else.
3. When we rest and sleep, let us turn the mind and body loose to themselves and let them do what they will. Let us rest the mind by leaving the mind alone.
4. When we think, let us make a decision and carry it out. If we decide incorrectly it can be reconsidered later.
5. When we are very tired, let us not permit a temporary or extreme emotional reaction to drive us into an act that will have permanent results.

Nation's Honey Production

In the United States the greater part of the honey produced is alfalfa honey from the western states, where several million dollars' worth is sold every year. Sweet clover, white sage and other mountain flowers, also contribute to the western supply. In the central states it is white clover, sweet clover, Spanish needle and heartsease honey. In the southern states, cotton mesquite, horse mint and sweet clover, and in the eastern states, northern states and Canada, buckwheat and white clover are the leading honey flowers. Orange blossoms, clover, aster and basswood complete the list.

Easy to Don Coat

Two men were chatting. "Why is it that Greeks and Italians can get into a coat easier than anyone else?" asked one. "I don't know," replied the careful one. "Did you ever notice the graceful overhead sweep of their arms as they slip on the coat with one complete motion?" queried the first speaker. The other admitted that he had noticed the phenomenon in question. "It's because their Roman and Grecian ancestors used that method in slipping on their togas and they haven't gotten over the idea," asserted Speaker No. 1.—Detroit News.

Ladies of Long Ago

The ladies to whom the troubadours sang had invariably hair of the color of flax, as soft as silk, and shimmering with a sheen of the finest gold. In ancient Spanish romances the hair is either of pure gold, or definitely fair. In ancient Germany, Gretchen had to have "fair hair, like gold; long bright, and curly." There is a famous description of a French lady of the Thirteenth century. "Her hair had the brilliance of gold, and was twisted into rebellious curls"—so evidently permanent waving was known.

Tomahawk Not Indian

The tomahawk, which is sometimes considered a weapon peculiar to the American Indian, was originally a club carved into some convenient shape. It was most commonly a stout stick about three feet in length, terminating in a large knob, wherein a projecting piece of flint was often inserted. The hatchets of the Indians that are now called tomahawks are a European device and the stone hatchets so often found in our fields, called by the same term, were not military weapons but mechanical tools.

Gas Freezes Fire

Carbon dioxide, which is expelled from your body whenever you exhale, has been put to use by the Los Angeles fire department to put out fires in which streams of water are of little use, as in chemical and oil fires. The gas is carried in high pressure cylinders and when released a cloud of dry ice like that used in certain kinds of refrigeration is squirted over the fire. This reduces the temperature and prevents oxygen from reaching the blaze, thus smothering it.

LIGHTS of NEW YORK

Matters of Memory

I have a friend who prides himself on a certain quirk in memory which enables him to remember telephone numbers. He can remember any person's telephone number, when he has heard it once. And this is not idle boasting on his part, as I have seen him demonstrate his ability many times.

The other day I dropped in at a store with him while he bought a new hat.

"What size?" asked the clerk. "I don't know," replied my infallible friend, "Seven, or seven and one eighth, or seven and one-quarter. Somewhere around there."

Sure Fire

In the old days of vaudeville, a lagging act was spurred on by the cry: "Go into your dance!" It meant that a comedian's lines weren't getting over very well, and a dance was a sure-fire way of getting out of difficulty. Nowadays, when whole choruses do more difficult steps than the highly paid specialty dancers of former days, some other life-saver must be found.

As a matter of fact, two life-savers have been found. One is for the performer to interrupt whatever he is doing, fall on one knee and yell "Sonny Boy-y-y!" It never fails to bring down the house.

The other method is to speak Yiddish. Somehow, New York vaudeville audiences rock with laughter at hearing that ancient and honorable tongue, and it is employed every week at the Palace.

The other day Lou Holtz flung out a phrase or two. Nearly everybody laughed. Then, so that the others might laugh too, he stepped to the edge of the orchestra pit and said:

"For the benefit of the four or five people from out of town, I will explain what I said. I said 'I'll take the same.' You paid your money to get in here, and you're entitled to know all that's going on."

The Big Kick

There are all sorts of practical jokes, but the latest one I heard of is the man who somewhere bought an explosive golf ball. He started out for a round with a friend. The friend teed up an old ball. The practical joker said:

"You can't play with me with a ball that old. Take this new one."

When the clubhouse met the ball there was a loud explosion. That is supposed to be the big kick in the joke. It meant two extra rounds at the nineteenth hole.

A Sick Man

Douglas Fairbanks, the energetic moving picture star, has always been an outstanding pattern of pep even when he was supposed to be sick. Years ago, before he entered the movies, he was in the Lamb's club one day and was asked to appear in a benefit. He complained that he could not undertake to do it because he felt rotten and was going home to bed. On the way out of the club he vaulted over a piano. If it had been one of his good days, he probably would have vaulted right over the first floor of the Lamb's club.

Pure Luck

Sometimes I have a suspicion that our great financial geniuses are not so smart, after all. It is a great comfort to think that millionaires are not wizards, but simply lucky. Such a relief permits me to think that I, too, may some day make a killing in Wall street.

One of the most satisfying anecdotes concerns a financial genius who telephoned his broker to buy 2,000 shares of something or other. The order was executed immediately. Ten minutes later the financial genius again telephoned his broker, and he was, to say the least, distracted.

"I've made a ghastly mistake," he quavered. "Something or Other is not the stock I intended to buy. I don't care where it is now. Sell it at the market."

This order, too, was executed on the spot. Twenty minutes after the brokerage firm had started buying Something or Other for its customers, all of that stock had again been sold.

The net profit was \$12,000. This particular stock had long remained quiet, and when all the stock gamblers saw an order for 2,000 shares placed, they figured that something was about to happen. So many of them put in additional orders, and the stock went up.

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His Desire for Sole Place in Sun Costs \$20

Provincetown, Mass.—His desire for a place in the sun cost Frank Viera \$20 in court here. It has long been Frank's daily custom to sit at the corner of Franklin and Tremont streets for a sun bath.

On a recent day, Antone Carlos, who is blind, chose the same street corner as a nice place to bask in the sun.

"Here, move out. You're keeping the sun from me," Frank complained.

Antone refused to budge and the scuffle that followed led to court.

LIGHTS HELP MAKE A CHEERY CHRISTMAS

Christmas is just around the corner, a Christmas that will see the nation aglow with so much varied color that old Nick, as he wings across the sky, will see below him one huge, illuminated, twinkling crazy quilt.

Merchants, civic and municipal bodies have come to recognize the value of the holiday spirit that is enhanced by decorated streets, buildings, parks and squares. This spirit aids business, especially at Christmas time, of this there is no doubt—and it also creates good feeling.

There is friendliness generated by the twinkling bulbs—they are messengers of Christmas. Rows of gaily decorated shop windows with their wreaths and holly, and their enticing displays capture the attention of the passerby.

Overhead strings of multi-colored bulbs cross and recross the streets and avenues shedding a holiday of childhood Christmases. It is hard to stay indoors when downtown extends such a welcome.

The buildings one passes—banks, stores, municipal buildings—all blaze with light and color—a festive atmosphere pervades everything. It would be difficult to imagine an "old Scrooge" in the gay Christmas of today.

This type of Christmas celebration is growing. No longer are decorations confined to the commercial sections of towns and cities. More and more home owners are making their dwellings a part of this Christmas atmosphere.

As one passes into the residential sections there will be seen many a welcoming doorway with its lighted wreath, many a lawn with its sparkling pyramid of evergreen, homes reflecting the colored glow of hidden floodlights and windows blazing with electric candles.

It is a happy custom. The home aglow with light extends a greeting, Christmas is being shared with the world. To the worker trudging homeward the lights wink merrily. It is amazing what a difference in spirit they make; and it is hoped that the custom will grow with the years.

Any telephone user in Centre county can now get in communication with the steamship Leviathan, either on her inward bound or outward sailings. If at any time you have friends sailing on the liner with whom you want to talk merely call "Long distance" operator in the usual way. Conversation will be possible as long as the ship is within range. The cost is \$21 for the first three minutes and \$7 for each additional minute.

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Christmas Gifts



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