

# Basic Toys Help Children Learn

By Dia Stokes

CHAPEL HILL — Many Moms and Dads probably would agree that the saddest three words at Christmas are "batteries not included."

But Dr. Craig T. Ramey, associate director of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center and professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, says complicated, battery-operated toys that walk, drink, blink, compute or salute don't necessarily stimulate a child's imagination or ability.

"It's time," he says, "to go back to the basic educational toys," like blocks, cardboard boxes, puzzles and pegboards.

By educational, Ramey says, he means toys that challenge a child to think creatively, to reason or to advance his or her ability to solve problems. But, he warns, many highly touted educational toys don't necessarily educate.

"Parents shouldn't let themselves be swayed by television gimmicks," he says. "The super-expensive, turn-on toy may not give the child anything constructive to do.

A toy isn't educational, Ramey says, if it is beyond the child's ability or developmental stage. It may result only in frustration or disinterest.

"For example, a 16-piece puzzle for a 2-year-old would not be educational, since it would be beyond his comprehension," he says. "Similarly a four-piece puzzle for a typical 5-year-old would not challenge that youngster."

Ramey says homemade toys often are more stimulating for children and their parents. With basic blocks, children have a chance to develop creative ability by building things.

"Simple things like spoons, pots and pans are things that stimulate a child's imagination," he says.

Ramey also suggests that parents select at least one

toy or game that the whole family can use or play with together.

"Group or family play provides an educational setting for the child," he says, "learning social skills at home. It also give parents the opportunity to learn more about their child's emerging skills."

Questions Ramey suggests parents consider when selecting toys are:

--Does the toy encourage cooperative and competitive play so the child can learn to share and to compete with others?

--Does the toy stimulate the imagination?

--Does the toy have flexibility so the child can do different things with it?

--Is it well constructed, durable and safe?

--Is it appropriate for the child's age level?

--Will it appeal to the child?

Ramey says other educational toys include boxes, which help children recognize various shapes; beads to string, magnetic alphabet cards; dominos, which teach children the concept of mathematics; and unit blocks, which also develop math concepts, motor coordination and social sharing skills.



By M.A. PETTI, M.D.

Three oldtime remedies should be banned from your house. They are oil of wintergreen liniment, camphorated oil and boric acid solutions. None is of much value, but they're all poisonous if a child accidentally drinks some.



Answer to puzzle 12/24/79

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Sweet Potatoes, Call Raymond Fillingame 244-1736. 12-27

## SERVICES

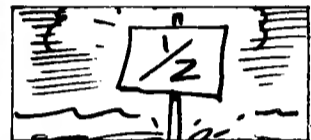
NEW RINSE-N-VAC steam cleans carpets cleaner and keeps them cleaner longer. Rent at Pat's Furniture Co., 244-1828. ufn

GARRIS USED CARS—Sales & Service, Auto repair daily. If it's not on the lot, we can get it for you. Located on Main Street, Vanceboro, 244-1626. ufn

B. & R. RADIATOR SHOP: 118 "C" Street, Bridgeton, 637-4504. One Day Service. Radiators cleaned, rodged repaired. We remove and replace. ufn

## LOST & FOUND

FOUND: One pair of men's eye glasses on Highway 17. Strong prescription. Pick up at Vanceboro Town Hall, 244-0919. PS



The Pacific Ocean holds half the water on earth.

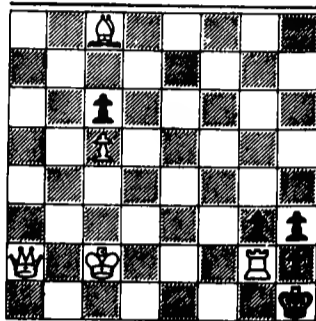
## Classifieds

### THANK YOU

The family of Irvin McGee would like to thank the members of the Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department and the many friends who helped save their home from fire. They would especially like to thank the unknown stranger who called in the alarm. (If anyone knows who that person was, the McGees would like to know her name). The McGees would also like to express their appreciation to the many friends who helped them adjust to the aftermath of the fire with food, gifts, and other acts of kindness.

The Irvin McGee Family

### chess



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN (Solution Below) 176

B-N7 Mate  
Q5-PXQ-RXN.P-P-Q5

## — IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE —

### CLASSIFIED AD RATES

20 Words or less ..... \$1.25 per week

Each additional word ..... 10c  
Bold type ..... add \$1.00  
Box around ad ..... add \$1.00

Payment must accompany ad.

Deadlines: Monday, 5:00 p.m.

Ads called in must be paid no later than Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.

To run a classified ad: Mail the ad and a check or money order to the West Craven HIGHLIGHTS, P.O. Box 404, Vanceboro, N. C. 28586 or come by our office on Main Street across from the Post Office or call 244-0780.

**Thank you!**  
for 56 years of  
support  
**Merry Christmas & a  
Happy New Year**



**B. C. Peterson & Son**  
Main St. Vanceboro 244-0240



Main Street

## NEW NORELCO tripleheader ROTARY RAZOR™



...contoured  
for more  
closeness  
than  
ever  
before



- new sleek styling for closer, smoother shaves
- 36 self-sharpening blades with floating Microgroove™ heads follow contours of face to cut off whiskers safely below skin level
- convenient thumb control on/off switch
- 115/230 voltage selector for AC and DC (50 and 60 c/s)
- pop-out sideburn and moustache trimmer—for more efficiency and comfort
- flip-top shaving head assembly for easy cleaning
- razor head guard, cleaning brush, coiled cord
- handsome black and red travel wallet

© No Amer Philips Corp 1978  
No. HP1132

\$56<sup>95</sup> Value

**\$4297**

SALE PRICES GOOD THROUGH DECEMBER 24, 1979

**Vanceboro  
Pharmacy**

"For all your Health Needs"



Prescriptions  
Filed  
Accurately

244-1086