

# Collectors Are Raiding The Attic For Electric Trains, Old Teddies

**By Donald J. Frederick**  
**National Geographic News Service**  
Kids, beware of your toys, especially if they're old hand-me-downs. A sneaky grown-up may lure them away from you.  
Nostalgia, a booming antique market, and general inflation have created a soaring demand for old toys, the National Geographic Society reports.

Doll houses, toy banks, electric trains are all hot items. Mechanical playthings dating from the 19th century command a premium. A bank shaped like a firehouse so enthralled one collector that he paid \$500 for it. At the insertion of a coin, a gong sounds, the doors fly open, and a horsedrawn firewagon pops out.

**Bring Big Money**  
A sale of antique toys in Los Angeles managed by a prestigious British auction house recently brought in more than \$31,000. Other toy auctions are planned in Europe, the United States, and Japan.

To the avid collector money isn't everything. "Gathering old toys," said one devotee, "is like stamp collecting. There's more interest to it, because there's a history behind each item. They don't become obsolete the way so many modern toys do."

Few of the faithful who rummage through antique stores, flea markets, and house sales expect to find playthings in mint condition.

On the contrary, there seems to

be even more of a demand for well-loved sagging teddy bears with patchy fur than for unmarred ones with plush skins and plump bodies. As one folklorist commented: "A toy in perfect condition is a pathetic thing. The toy which never knew the delight of a child has lost some of the essence that gives it meaning and genuine value."

Adults and children alike lavished love on toys in Colonial times. Most of the tiny animals, doll houses, carts, and rocking horses were hand-crafted by devoted fathers for their offspring. Once in a while if a settler could afford it, he splurged on a sophisticated toy from Europe.  
**Factories Took Over**

As the United States filled up and people moved closer together, child's play became more organized and complicated. The 19th century brought "tin toys" made first by the local blacksmith, then by factories. They were small realistic models of everything from stoves to trains. Some factories turned out sleds,

wagons, croquet sets, and doll houses. The toy or mechanical bank craze started sometime in the 1870s. Clowns swallowed coins and rolled their eyes. A deposit encouraged dogs to wag their tails, and the right piece of money placed in an eagle's mouth flapped the bird's wings.

Not long ago one budding collector thought he had found a real treasure. It was a classic 19th-century bucking mule bank. The mule kicks a coin into an open barn door and a small dog appears. The collector's joy was short-lived. When he examined the bottom of his acquisition, he saw: Made in Taiwan.

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SALE

## Deaths And Funerals

**C. Pope Floyd**

Funeral services for C. Pope Floyd, 68, who died Dec. 14, were conducted Friday at Crumpler Funeral Home by Revs. Alton Howard and Adalee Thurmond. Burial was in Highlands Biblical Garden.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Valerie Floyd; two sons, Robert Floyd of Fayetteville and Donald of Raeford; two sisters, Mrs. Alberta Lyles of Raleigh and Mrs. Louise Thompson of Whiteville; a brother Earl Floyd of Raeford; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Fred L. Small**

Funeral services for Fred L. Small, 69, of Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge, who died Friday, were held at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Laurel Hill Baptist Church, the Rev. H. McRae officiating. Burial was in th church cemetery.

**Neil A. Maxwell**

Neil Archie Maxwell, Jr., 1120 Avalon Drive, Rockingham, died Saturday in Salisbury. He was a loom fixer for Klopman Mills and a veteran of World War II.

He was born in Hoke County Oct. 30, 1921, the son of Neil A. and Lillian Gibson Maxwell, Sr.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at 11 a.m. from East Rockingham United Methodist Church; Rev. Gladys Williford officiated. Burial followed in the Raeford City Cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Claytie Watson Maxwell; one son, Richard Maxwell of Hamlet; one daughter, Cynthia Wright of Salisbury; two sisters, Ailene Faulk and Marie Culbreth, both of Raeford; two grandchildren.

## N-J Office To Close

The News-Journal office will be closed all day Monday, Dec. 26, in honor of Christmas. Regular business hours will resume Tuesday, Dec. 27.

All weekly features and columns should be submitted by Friday, Dec. 23, for publication in next week's issue.

## Church News

Rev. James L. Glenn and members of the Freedom Chapel AME Zion Church wish to thank the many businesses of Raeford who contributed to the preparation of packages for delegates to the Central North Carolina Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, held recently at the Freedom Chapel here in Raeford.

## Winner

Wilma Lawrence, Rt. 2 Box 549, Raeford, was a fifty-dollar winner in a contest sponsored by the A&P supermarket. She received her \$50 prize Monday.

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