



Getting back to the basics of fun

Continued from Page 6

And for young fans there's even a Cabbage Patch magazine in which various columns are attributed to dolls dressed in foreign correspondent trench coats. Of course, the editors are dolls outfitted in old-fashioned visors and sleeve garters.

While Coleco backs up its flagging Cabbage Patch market with Rambo dolls, the GI Joe of the 1980s, other firms continue to appeal to adults who never quite got over dolls.

About 80 percent of the dolls sold at the Doll Factory are packaged for adult collectors, according to Hansen. Madame Alexander eight inch high storybook dolls and portrait dolls of the likes of Judy Garland are aimed at buyers who don't intend to romp in the Cabbage Patch. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dolls dressed for the dancers' roles in "The Barkleys of Broadway" evoke memories for late show buffs.

BABY BOOMERS turned couch potatoes can wax nostalgic over dolls representing the Honeymooners' Ed Nor-

ton and Ralph Kramden. Kramden's dressed in his blue 1950's bus driver uniform while Norton wears the familiar vest and baggy pants that are the ultimate in sewer chic.

For more intellectual pursuits, there are hand-carved wooden chess boards and pieces available at Thunderbird Toys, West Bloomfield. Looking as exotic and oriental as medieval illustrations to Russian fairy tales, the playing pieces for Thunderbird's chess sets from the Soviet Union feature czars and czarinas as the kings and queens. The rooks are elegant onion domes. The hand painted board folds into a carrying case. Priced between \$175-\$200, the sets are definitely intended for display as well as play.

Although Whimsy and chess strategy generally seem incompatible, they blend nicely in a set with a nautical theme. The king on this red and blue chess board is a ship's captain in a sturdy pea jacket. The queen is a mermaid whose design was inspired more by 19th century ship figureheads than by Darryl Hanna. Prancing across the playing board are knights in the guise of sea horses. Gilbert and Sullivan

style deckhands serve as pawns.

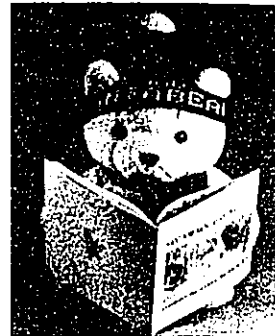
A generation's refusal to totally grow up and abandon playthings has spurred William Sotell, of Westland into a second career as a toy maker. He specializes in wooden toys that appeal more to adults than youngsters. Included in his collection, called Bill's Wooden Wonders, is a biwing airplane carved from black walnut. Based on a Shopsmith pattern by former pilot Norman Marshall, the plane boasts a 13 inch wing span and sits four to five inches high off of its display disc.

SOTELL'S SEVEN-foot-long train is headed by a steam engine hooked up to a passenger car, flat car, coal car and a red caboose. The caboose's red or yellow tint is a deviation from Sotell's usual style.

"Most of the toys are finished in polyurethane to let the woodgrain show," he said. His 18-wheeler with a car hauler attached to it measures 30 inches long, six inches wide and nine inches high.

Evidently it was evocative enough

of the real thing to prompt Detroit Diesel to buy one, according to Sotell. The car carries six antique-style autos. The cab sports a CB antennae, side-view mirror, mudflaps, wraparound



In honor of his first birthday, Santabear now has a story written about him. It's available at B. Dalton Bookseller.

Please turn to Page 9

Waterford's Classic Gifts

From Greenstone's Fine Collection



From Left to Right

7½" Hurricane Candle \$127.50, 5" Bowl \$62.50,
9" Bud Vase \$77.50, 3½" Candlestick \$132.50 per pair,
Lismore Wine Decanter \$180.00, 3½" Violet Vase \$42.50,
Biscuit Barrel \$145.00, Honey Pot \$75.00,
5½" Footed Bowl \$67.50

GREENSTONE'S

Creators of fine jewelry for over 60 years

528 North Woodward Avenue Mon.-Fri. 9:30-6:00,
Birmingham, Michigan 48011 Thurs. till 8:00, Sat. till 5:00
(313) 642-2650 Major Credit Cards Welcome