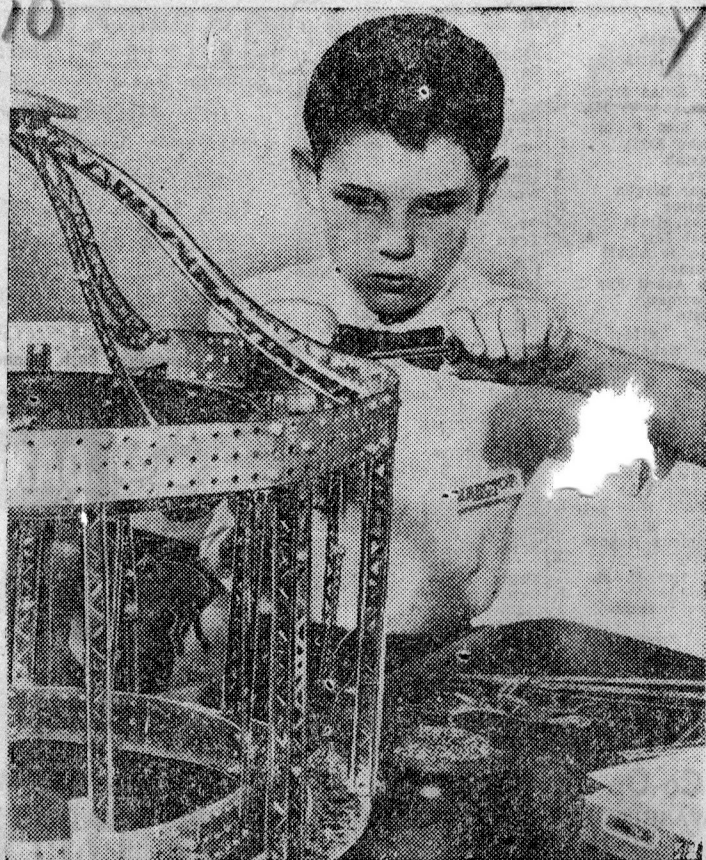


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BUDDING GENIUS . . . Toys can help your children develop an interest in his future. Give him a chance to find out.

Right Toys May Help Shape Junior's Future

By Vivian Brown

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A toy may help determine your child's future.

This country has its mediocre professional people — lawyers, teachers, doctors—who might have been extraordinary cabinet makers or glass blowers. But their parents were determined they seek advanced academic education.

On the other hand shoemakers and plumbers who are all thumbs perhaps missed a chance to prove they could be scientists or engineers. All they needed was a little encouragement as children, perhaps with a play microscope or chemistry set helping to develop their interest.

Children's aptitudes should be tested from time to time. They are likely to change with advancing years, but it is well to keep track of things they shine at. Institutions such as the Gilbert Hall of Science in New York help encourage small fry ambitions. There a youngster can tinker with anything from a medical kit containing a professional splint and bandage to a scientifically accurate microscope and perhaps begin to find their niche.

The organization conducts a chemistry contest supported by boards of education and chemical societies around the country. Each year more than 20,000 budding scientists respond to it.

A great favorite of boys who discover their building ingenuity is the erector set. Three high school boys devised a rocket launching platform last year with one. Scien-

tist Willy Ley is said to have called it "superb in its conception." Off-shore oil rigs and floating radar stations are inventions of 12-year-olds.

Model trains serve the purpose of mechanical training. Boys with engineering and designing talents form clubs in which elaborate train layouts are assembled and operated on a communal or team basis. One of the largest train set-ups in the country, run entirely by boys, is in Bridgeport, Conn. Boys and adults share in the highly scientific and artistic train layout in Hoboken and Pelham, New York. The hundred foot model platform in Chester, Pa., is the scene of an annual derby.

Little girls may be encouraged in homemaking with cooking sets in which 10-year-olds can bake their very own pies and cakes. Supermarket counter games teach youngsters to study what groceries go into their dinners. A nurse's game may set the mood for that career.

It's up to parents to help their youngsters discover themselves. One man who might have made a good scientist relates that "every year I pleaded for a microscope and chemistry set for Christmas. Each time I was presented with a dictionary. Now I'm just a frustrated businessman."