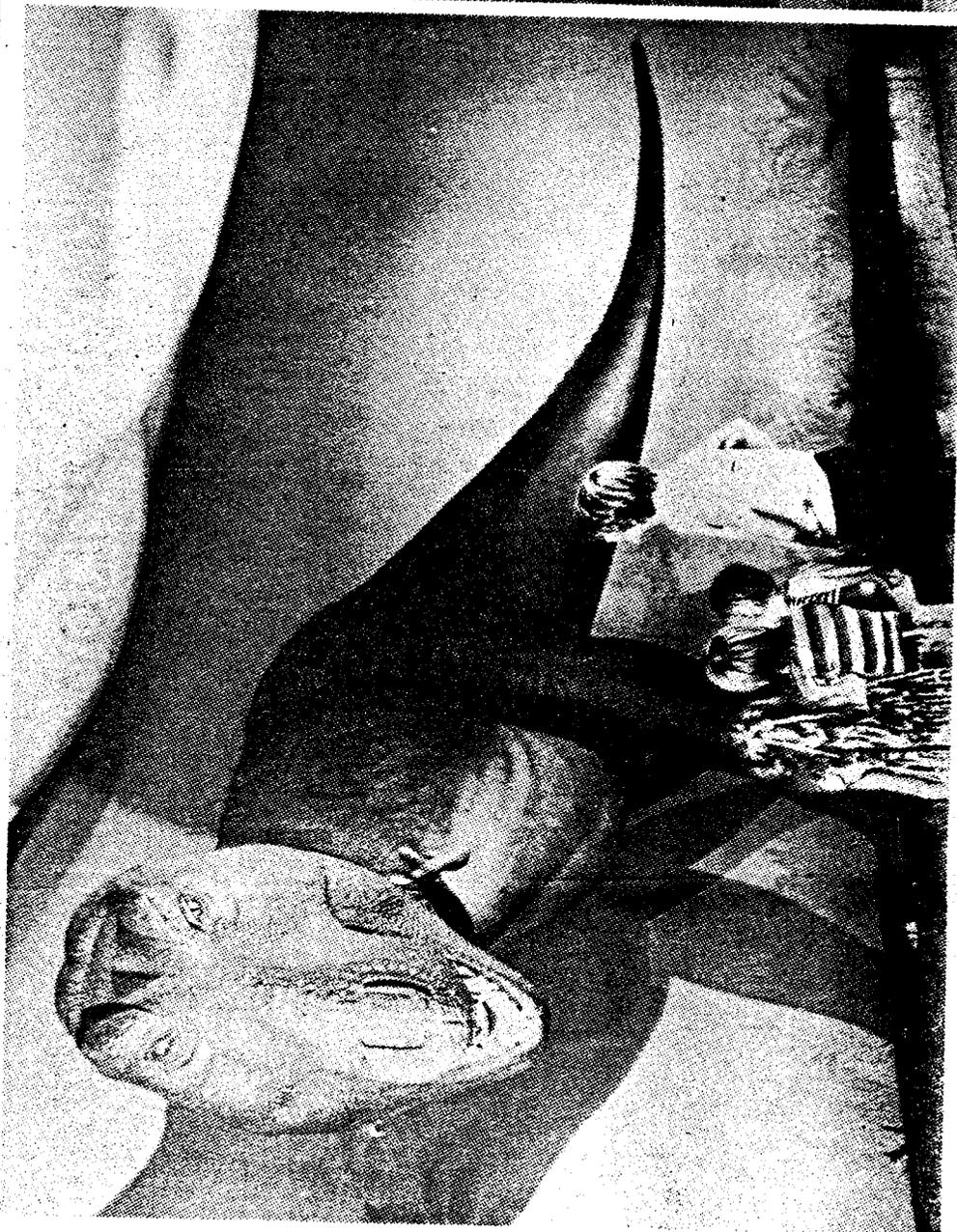


The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “1976/10/01 - Visit to Children's Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

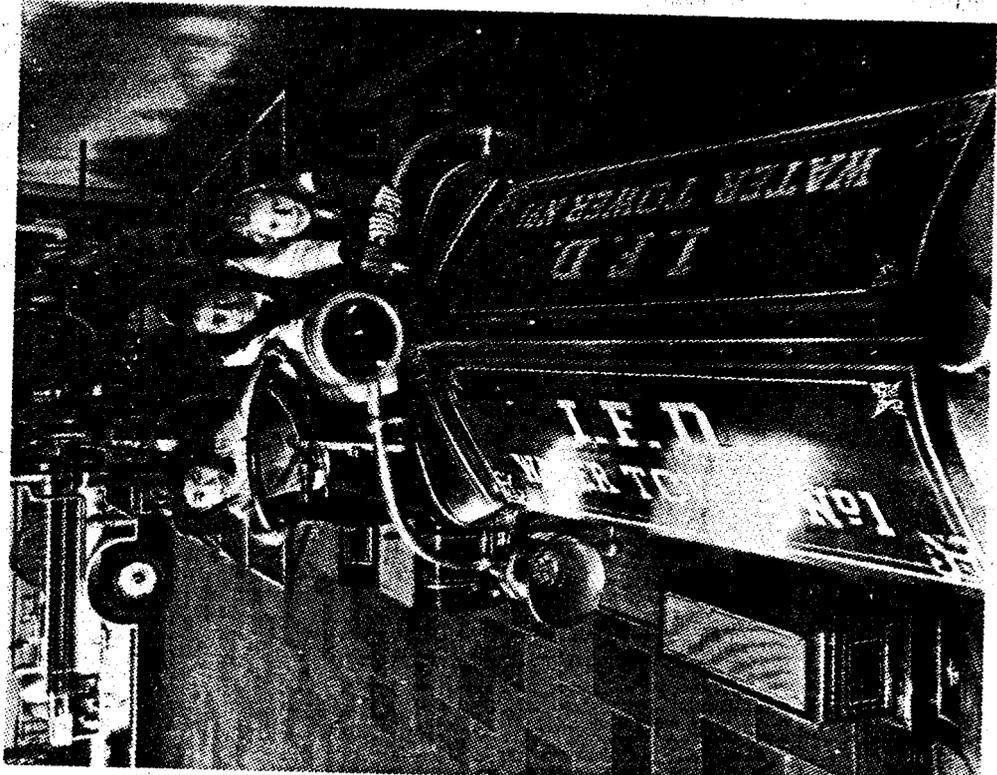
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children



Step up to a full-sized model of a Tyrannosaurus Rex or take a turn at the wheel of an antique fire truck at Indianapolis Children's Museum



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Indianapolis museum is not just to look at

By Alice Taylor Reed
Special to
The Christian Science Monitor

The curator invites you to pick up old bones, 'ride' a fire engine, and walk into the past

Indianapolis
This museum is not just for looking. There are real dinosaur bones you can pick up and handle; a fire engine you can climb on, ring the bell, sound the siren, and turn the heavy wheel that steers the truck. There's an Indy-500 race car you can hop in and sit in the driver's seat.

And there's a carousel with 42 hand-carved wooden animals you can ride on, up and down and round and round to the music of a merry-go-round band organ.

The gallery that houses the carousel has other beloved toys and amusements from earlier eras, including a toy train layout where 5 trains operate at once through cities and towns, past an industrial park and a circus,

over mountains and waterfalls. And 10 more trains are parked on sidings, waiting for a section of track to clear so they can go.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis opens the doors of its brand-new building Oct. 2. Built on the same corner in the central city where it has been for 29 years, the new building houses some of its long-time favorite exhibits plus a host of exciting new ones.

Thousands of Indianapolis children have first learned about Egyptian mummies from a trip to the Children's Museum, and the new building has a simulated Egyptian tomb to house its mummy, Wenuhotep, daughter of the Egyptian priest who lived nearly 3,000 years ago. The walls of the tomb are painted with scenes and messages written in hieroglyphs. Volunteer

tour conductors decipher this message and explain the picture alphabet to those who come on school tours.

The showpiece of the Americana gallery is the Hoosier Home diorama, an authentic furnished log cabin from the 1830s. It is flanked by real trees, in a wilderness setting. Museum visitors enter the huge diorama and become part of it when they tour the cabin. On special occasions they can observe costumed pioneer women cooking and spinning and making soap and candles under the trees and in the fields outside the log house.

The most activity-oriented gallery is the Natural Science gallery. Here exhibits relate to the elements and the environment. A turtle pit houses a live turtle chosen from more than

40 observed during a several months' tryout. The one selected seemed best adapted to withstanding the handling and noise of the visitors. Other small cold-blooded animals live in a glass-enclosed space where they can be observed by school tours.

Highlight of the Natural Science gallery is a simulated limestone cave, cool and dark and damp, with 120 feet of passageways through typical cave formations.

The core of this gallery is the Discovery Desk, with more than 80 drawers of animal, rock, and plant specimens. Students can check out a drawer for a learning experience from objects. Some of the drawers have birds' nests, some rock collections, some tree twigs and leaves and seeds. Some are ecology drawers with instructions on how to construct a food chain or a food web.

Just outside the Natural Science gallery is a walled outdoor learning area, an 8,000-square-foot microcosm of the State of Indiana's natural features - from sand dunes in the northwest corner bordering Lake Michigan down to the flat terrain of central Indiana and the gently rolling hills of the southern portion.

The gallery includes a greenhouse using fluorescent lights where continuing experiments on how to grow houseplants and how to raise food will be carried on by schoolchildren in their free time, assisted by the museum staff.

There are special activities every afternoon after school and on Saturdays. They include craft classes, merit badge classes for Boy and Girl Scouts, a choir, story hour for young children (illustrated with objects from the museum collections), a course in the emergence of "third-world" countries, and a mother-daughter weaving class. There are geology and biology field trips.

Dedicated to "everyone who is - or ever was - a child," the museum exhibits pose questions as well as answers. The Emergence of Man gallery outlines several theories, and the Story of Our Earth gallery asks, "Why did the turtles survive and the large dinosaurs not?"

The museum is open to the public every day but Monday and admission is free.

imagination

Solve these thinking art problems in your own way, be brave and have all the fun you want !!!!!

① Use these letters X B T C O

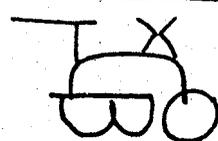
To make the following:

Something to ride on

Something that whistles

Something that makes you laugh

example:



② Draw these

A large

A sweet

A noisy

A sour

③ See how many different things you can draw that have this as part of its shape



By Bill Oakes