

News from the

The
CHARLOTTE MUSEUM
of HISTORY



WHERE HISTORY HAS A HOME

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For Immediate Release



***ToyTime* exhibit opens September 8 at The Charlotte Museum of History!**



ToyTime, an interactive exhibit of giant-size folk toys, comes to The Charlotte Museum of History for a limited engagement this fall. Visitors can “play” with large-scale handcrafted wood versions of the most popular kinetic folk toys throughout history.

ToyTime opens to the public on September 8 and runs through December 30, 2007. A special display of historic toys from The Museum’s collection will be presented in conjunction with the ***ToyTime*** exhibit.

Sixteen interactive toy stations explore the history, mechanics and fun of the Whimmy Diddle, Jacob’s Ladder, Twirling Acrobat, Tightrope Walker, Pecking Chickens, Lunging Lumberjacks, and other tumbling, flipping and climbing toys.

ToyTime comes to The Charlotte Museum of History from SciWorks Science Center and Environmental Park, where the new touring exhibit opened to rave public reception earlier this year.

ToyTime is the brainchild of Tom Wilson, director of exhibits at SciWorks. A craftsman and former furniture maker, Mr. Wilson began making folk toys thirty years ago, making them for his children and giving them away to friends.

He began to envision an exhibit of giant versions of the toys. And, in an electronics age in which museum displays are operated at the push of a button, Mr. Wilson wanted visitors to enjoy a more hands-on exhibit experience with kinetic toys that didn't require electricity.

The large-scale toys took six months to construct, presenting interesting challenges along the way to make toys that could be operated safely at that size.

One visitor to the exhibit, who brought her grandson in one day and came back the next day with her husband, told a reporter "I think this is absolutely incredible; it's as much fun for the adults!"

Folk toys reflect the traditions and patterns of life of people from different time periods throughout the world. Many toys show influences from early American and Appalachian folk life. American folk toys give a glimpse of what it might have been like to live in Colonial America.

Many toys recreated in the *ToyTime* exhibit date back at least several hundred years. Jacob's Ladder was a popular toy in Colonial America; legend has it that a Jacob's Ladder was found in King Tut's tomb, dating it as early as 1352 BC.

The Laws of Physics are explained in the mechanics of the toys. Gravity, inertia, center of mass, perpetual motion and resonance are some of the physical principles demonstrated through the *ToyTime* stations.

ToyTime is presented at The Charlotte Museum of History through generous sponsorship from KPB Foundation, Jacob's Ladder Sponsor; and Mary Liz Francis and Darling Creative Group, Whimmy Diddle Sponsors. The Developing Sponsor of ToyTime is Museum Productions LLC. The Charlotte Museum of History is supported in part with a Basic Operating Grant from the Arts & Science Council, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc.

The Charlotte Museum of History is located at 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte.

Admission range \$3-\$6 general, members free,
And free on Sundays 1-5 p.m.

Hours after Labor Day: Tue-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5

For more information please call (704) 568-1774,
or visit our website at www.charlottemuseum.org.