

New "Hall of Science" Opens in New York City

A new Gilbert Hall of Science greeted visiting buyers and wholesalers in New York last month.

One of the most popular of New York's tourist attractions, the Hall went through a major renovation that took three months. Settings and displays were changed on the first floor, which is designed for consumer traffic, and similar changes were made on the upper floors, which are primarily for business purposes.

The upper floors saw the most traffic during the week of the Toy Fair and before the Fair. Displays of railroads, chemistry sets, games, erector sets and adult tools were changed to show off the best in the new Gilbert line for 1955.

There were new toy and tool displays, and a gigantic railroad panorama was created, taking in scenes from the granite quarries of New England to the oil fields of Texas, and

ing. They're a showcase for A. C. Gilbert's new train sets.

Five trains can be controlled by sightseers, who work buttons labeled, "push-me." They run on smaller ovals, and visitors can operate a railroad freight yard, a granite quarry, log-loading train, coal dump, baggage loading car, miniature stockyards and an oil-drum loader.

A realistic oil refinery set in the middle of the display is one of the most interesting sights on the railroad tour. The hand-made set includes a model of a cracking plant, six derricks, four large and two small oil storage tanks.

New chemistry sets, including a junior nuclear physics laboratory, an electricity set that teaches the youngster basic electricity, magic sets, complete tool chests and building blocks are displayed at the Hall.

The Gilbert Hall of Science is one

models were exhibited during the Toy Fair. Company officials state that the HO trains should be in retail outlets by early fall.

HO trains were a wartime casualty at the Gilbert plant. When World War II ended, Gilbert production facilities were concentrated on the demand for S gauge, 3/16 models. But designers and planners were working on ideas for new and better HO models all the time.

Now, with plant facilities expanded, the company has found it possible to return to making HO sets. Gilbert will manufacture, at the start, three engines and seven cars.

The engines are the famed Hudson J-3 freight locomotive, modeled after the New York Central recordmaker, a Pennsylvania Railroad six-wheel switcher with slopeback tender, and a Lackawanna diesel.

Exclusive Features

The steam-type locomotives will have two exclusive Gilbert features. They will sound off with choo-choos and will puff smoke as they roar along.

Gilbert will incorporate in its trains the new X-2F couplers, developed by the National Model Railroad Association's coupler committee.

Seven new cars have been designed for the Gilbert line: a Monon cement car; Katy line cattle car; New York, New Haven & Hartford transformer car; Chicago Burlington & Quincy coal hopper; Norfolk and Western Open gondola; a Pacific Fruit Express refrigerated car; and a Reading Caboose.

All cars will have sprung trucks and NRMA standard flange wheels. The two features, Gilbert authorities state, will give them greater roadability and improved ride.

The basic HO set will include a locomotive and tender, hopper with coal, tank car and a caboose, 12 sections of 18-inch radius track, two sections of straight track and a re-railer. New equipment developed for the HO venture includes a siding bumper, an eight-inch Lackawanna girder bridge, and a small railroad station. The sets will use Atlas standard rail track on a molded base. A Gilbert HO 650 power pack with 115-120 volt input, 12 volt, 1 amp output, has been designed to work with the new trains.

Leo E. Schloss, veteran A. C. Gilbert salesman, has been named sales manager of the new HO Division. He has been district manager for the Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D. C. region since 1946, and will continue to make his headquarters in the Gilbert Hall of Science, 1610 K Street, Washington, although it is possible that he will later move his office closer to the Gilbert plant in New Haven, Conn.

Ted P. Cook, former manager of the Gilbert Hall of Science, has been named district manager, succeeding Mr. Schloss.



William Perry, manager of the Gilbert Hall of Science, New York City, demonstrates to Patty McCormack, child star of the Broadway show, "Bad Seed," an important point in model railroad layout. Miss McCormack was one of the first visitors to the remodeled Hall, which was reopened to the public in late March, after three months of renovation. A new diorama for model railroad display and new settings for Gilbert toys and appliances were built on all floors.

an Erector Park that includes operational models of merry-go-rounds, rocket swings and a ferris wheel.

Railroad Display

The railroad display is the largest project and is the main sightseeing attraction. The Hall abounds with trains. Eleven American Flyer lines run across the giant picture window on the Fifth Avenue side of the build-

ing of five in the United States. Others are located in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami Beach and Washington, D. C. Six similar halls are operated in foreign lands, including Peru and Argentina.

Resumes HO Production

Gilbert will resume production of HO model railroad trains in 1955 after an interruption of 14 years. New