

MORE MAGIC

Boy Of 75 Who's Never Forgot Toys

By MILT SOSIN

If, sometime after next Christmas you see the neighbor's children earnestly engaged in sawing a live rabbit in half — don't call the Humane Society.

Go over and watch the fun.

It'll just be one of the new tricks from the bag of a 75-year-old boy who never grew up — A. C. Gilbert — now on one of his periodic visits to Miami.

Next year Gilbert will celebrate his 50th anniversary in the joyous business of making Erector sets, toys, games, American Flyer trains, chemistry sets, magic sets, science sets and such.

MIAMIAN'S AID

Right now "A. C." (for Alfred Carlton) is engaged in the task of modernizing an old standby — the Gilbert Magic set.

In this endeavor he's being assisted by another enthusiastic spoof artist — Miami's Roy Jahn.

Jahn has just returned from two weeks in A. C.'s New Haven headquarters working on this project and now A. C. is in Miami with Jahn.



A. C. GILBERT
One For The Boys

Gilbert claims that although chairman of the board of the A. C. Gilbert Co., he's "no longer active." But he admits that problems of inventing new "gimmicks" still intrigue him.

MINIATURE VERSIONS

"Our magic sets were always a big number," he said today, "But we haven't been doing anything with them the last couple of years. Now we're going to include miniature versions of famous illusions."

As he spoke, A. C. was manipulating a deck of cards, palming them and a moment later spreading a flush in hearts into view with a professional flourish.

The two said the illusions they are working on include the old-time stage act of sawing a woman in half, with a live rabbit or even a pet pup as the "victim," and a levitation trick in which a doll will seemingly float in the air.

PROFITABLE RIDE

Gilbert's biggest drawing card over the years has been Erector sets.

In 1911, two years after his infant company was started on borrowed capital of \$5,000, A. C. was riding one day on the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad when he noticed the steel girders being used in the electrification of part of the route.

"And that's when the idea for Erector was born," he said.

GIVE UP MEDICINE

Gilbert graduated from college with a medical degree and even spent a year as an intern in a hospital.

He gave up medicine for magic, but parents the world over can testify that for almost a half century A. C. Gilbert was a pretty good doctor in aiding convalescence from childhood ills.