



GILBERT HALL OF SCIENCE: dedicated to American youth.

## Gilbert Science Hall Fascinates All Ages

What famous or interesting place in New York would you like described? Send suggestions to Jim Rattray, New York Mirror, 235 E. 45th St., N. Y. 17, N. Y.

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By JIM RATTRAY

The little boy seemed mesmerized and his father had a far-away look in his eye as they gazed at the intricate layout of model trains in the Gilbert Hall of Science, a gallery dedicated to "the pleasure and education of the youth of America."

(Today's column was suggested by Halsey Gilmartin, of St. Paul, Minn.)

As father and son watched, a locomotive and ten freight cars shot out of a tunnel, engine smoking and whistle blowing. It slowed down crossing a river and entered a freight yard. Cattle were transferred and the train moved out into rolling countryside.

AT THE OTHER end of the main exhibition room, a group of school youngsters and their teacher oohed and aahed at a display of what could be accomplished with erector sets. They marveled at rockets, amusement park carousels, motor-driven oil rigs and robots, skyscrapers and tractors.

Opened in 1947 by A. C. Gilbert, toy manufacturer, the free exhibit draws more than 100 visitors daily, with many more during the Christmas season. It's located at the intersection of Fifth Ave. and Broadway, on 25th St.

The train displays get the most attention in the Hall of Science. A 75-foot section of the building's third floor, is devoted to one huge layout scaled to a 15-mile section of countryside. Valued at approximately \$25,000, it contains hundreds of individual train cars, 75 scale miles of track, a lake, waterfall, mountains, mines, refinery, towns, tunnels and highways.

OTHER OBJECTS on display are powerful astronomical telescopes, electricity sets, star finders (plexiglas slides built into a night-viewing compass), tool kits, chemistry equipment and microscopes.

The educational displays (one features multicolored reflections of cellophane under a polarized light) are for the edification of youthful future scientists and railroaders. But Hall officials confide that adults seem to find just as much fascination in them.

NEXT: N. Y. Coliseum.