

Kusan-Auburn

IT'S SIMPLE TO LAUNCH a satellite on the home testing grounds. This one travels around the track, a foot over the train's launching platform, kept in orbit by a stream of air.

TOYS of the AGE

By JOAN O'SULLIVAN

TIMES have changed since we hopped around with the pigtail set, and child's play has changed with them.

Old Game, New Name

"Cowboys and Injuns" is still a good game, but nowadays kids call it something far different—"Earthmen and Martians." It's our sputnik era that's made small-fry thoughts go soaring sky high.

Kids find it fascinating and that's understandable. Space conquest has everything to hold a child spellbound. There's mystery, adventure, maybe even some shooting—who ever said Moon Men would be friendly?

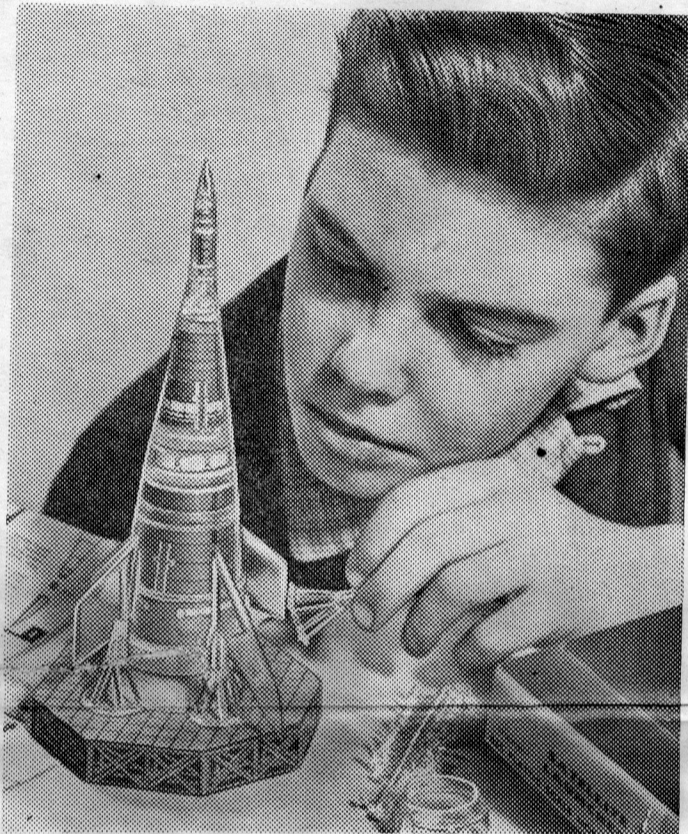
Out of This World

It's no wonder new toys are but out of this world. That's how the kids like them.

Even toddlers are on to the change. They don't get a bang from a Western-type pistol but prefer to "Pop, Pop" or "Whoosh, Whoosh" with rocket or ray gun.

Wear an Indian headdress? It's an outdated style! Space helmets are sported by kids who are hep.

From tot to teen ages, the story's the same, say trend-watching experts at Toy



JUNIOR'S BUILDING a three-stage rocket from a hobby kit designed by a top U.S. scientist, Dr. Wernher von Braun.

Guidance Council. It's a major play change that has toy-makers talking like satellite scientists.

Even toy trains have outer-space features. Junior can hook on a car equipped to launch rockets or add one that sends up a sputnik and keeps it in orbit via a controlled stream of air.

All types of sputniks turn up on toy counters. One's a hand game, a semi-globe with handle encircled by a magnetic track. Rotate the wrist and the satellite spins around and around.

The toy soldier army can boast a new outfit. A minia-

ture U.S. Missile Corps unit is swelling the ranks. It's complete with military installations, rocket launchers, helicopters and space pilots, of course.

To compete with trucks and other action toys, there's an Alpha-1 ballistic missile, that sets a 10-inch plastic rocket soaring 150 feet into the air, or into space, as it were.

Science students who take their play seriously can spot constellations with a clever new gadget. The star formations are etched on glass slides. Slip them into a hand viewer lighted by an astronomical compass and it's easy to find those same constellations in the night sky.

Backyard Observatory

For a real close-up view, a moonscope or telescope, set up on a tripod, turns patio, porch or plain old back yard into an observatory.

Constellations can be seen indoors, too, with a planetarium that reproduces star groupings on walls and ceilings, adjusts for different seasons and locations on earth.

Space toys can be much more than fun. Scientists stress their educational importance.

Scientist's Toy

One top rocket expert, Dr. Wernher von Braun, has even turned his talent to creating a kit that reproduces—and authentically—a 3-stage rocket and satellite launcher.

It's play today, but maybe tomorrow Junior will thank space toys for pointing the way to a fascinating career in the realm of science.



A. C. Gilbert Co.

SEEING STARS on slides that fit into an illuminated holder makes it easy to spot the constellations in the sky.