NEW EXHIBIT REFLECTS LEGACY OF A KC LEGEND
Going Places: The Toy Collection of Jerry Smith


Jerry Smith (1917-1984) was a Kansas City auto dealer, philanthropist, and toy collector who worked tirelessly to help others. Growing up on a prairie farm, Smith was thrilled by things on the move; planes, tractors, cars, and trains sparked his imagination, and he went on to collect transportation toys by the thousands. With a goal of using his collection for good, Smith created toy displays to benefit children’s charities and organizations. Today, the toys signify a journey through the technology of the last two hundred years. They also reflect the lasting legacy of a remarkable figure in Kansas City whose goal was to “give ahead, not get ahead.”

For years, Smith created a Christmas Village, complete with decorated “streets” filled with old-fashioned storefronts. His collection of toys filled the streets. The entire display was free to the public but Smith encouraged donations to Children’s Mercy. His collection has been displayed at the Hallmark Gallery in New York City, at the Kansas City Museum, and at other museums across the nation.

Since The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures opened in 1982, objects from Smith’s collection have been displayed at the museum. Going Places showcases objects from his collection not on permanent display and brings back many old favorites beloved by generations of Kansas Citians. The exhibit runs through August 25, 2019.
ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES

The National Museum of Toy and Miniatures educates, inspires, and delights adults and children through the museum’s collection and preservation of toys and miniatures. Located on the University of Missouri - Kansas City campus, the museum exhibits the world’s largest collection of fine-scale miniatures and one of the nation’s largest collections of antique toys. For more information, call (816) 235-8000 or visit www.toyandminiaturemuseum.org.

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