

Page 18/The Battalion/Thursday, January 17, 1985

### NEWS

# Toy soldiers more than a hobby for collector

#### **Associated Press**

AMARILLO — Amarilloan Tom Pace has a fascination for military history in miniature. He has hundreds of toy soldiers, including a figure that's the only one of its kind known to exist.

"I started collecting them as a nos-talgia thing," he said. "I remember playing with them as a kid."

Pace, 43, typical of many young-sters of the 1940s and 1950s, built fantasy battle fields of brightly-col-

ored toy fighting men in the dust of vacant lots near his home in Pampa. After graduation he joined the Army, serving as an instructor in Special Forces. Returning to civilian life, he went to work at Pantex and resumed his hobby of building

model planes and ships. He also developed an interest in model trains.

"There was an old man who had a bunch of trains," he recalls, "and I used to go over to his house.

"He was paraplegic and couldn't get out, and somebody thought it would be nice to give him some reading material — so they gave him an entire collection of Life magazines, from the first to the last issue.

After his old friend died, Pace said, he offered to buy the mag-azines from the man's widow. She accepted, "and a friend and I spent an afternoon loading owner to be a spent a s an afternoon loading over a ton of

Life magazines in a pickup." He read them all, and one issue had an article on toy soldiers.

Toy soldiers, he said, were manufactured from the late 1880s until World War II in Britain, and from the early 1900s to the 1940s in this country. Some early American toys were cast iron, but the majority are

of lead — so the common term, "tin soldiers," is in any case a misnomer. The cast iron ones were made by the Grey Iron Co.," Pace said. "Most

of the rest were made by the Barclay Co. or the Manoil Co. Although all the little castings are generically referred to as "toy sol-diers," Pace said that the scores of different figures include sailors, Ma-rines, and a variety of noncomba-

tants — nurses, doctors, clerks even figures in regular civilian dress. The little fighting figures also bes-

peak little-known phases of military history. Pace takes a peculiar vehicle from the shelf. It resembles a jeep chassis sans body, with a driver and machine gunner, both prone. "I thought this was a figment of

somebody's imagination," he said, "until I came across a book on the development of the jeep. And there it is.

Most of the toy soldiers, plus the howitzers, motorcycles, pill-boxes and all the array of men and material, were "slush cast," Pace said. The metal was poured in the forms, then moments later they were inverted and the still-liquid center inverted and the still-liquid center poured back out.

"That's how they got their hollow structure," he said. "After they were

"They'd get a bunch of little old ladies from the neighborhood, and have an assembly-line setup; one would paint faces, another belts, another eyes, and so on. So no two are ever quite alike."

fleman wearing a gas mask, posed a lifelike charge. "This is the only one of the NE

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known," he said. "It was made byt All-Nu Toy Co., a company that wa only in business about a year. The price lists for it say 'none known." As toy soldiers have become have

collectors' items, he said, market a lue has skyrocketed. "These originally cost a nickle,"h

said. "I started out picking themu for a quarter each. Now, then worth \$15 to \$100 each. I went the Toy Soldiers Convention in Ca cago last year and got one that one me a hundred.

Part of the price increase he a transactio tributes to industrialist Malon Forbes, who has probably the Panama, man an branches world's most extensive toy soldier collection. banking South Now, Pace's collection of nearly

New Yor 2,000 toy soldiers is difficult to a Banks la sess. a few to

"It's insured," he said, "and be sides" — the six-foot, 200-pour former Pampa High School Hzvester lineman grins — "can w imagine what a job it would be in someone to haul all that lead out d here?

ami, pr banks, bi From a shelf across the root from the display case that holds the lead figures, he brings two detailed money c metal tank models.

These are called 'sand table models.' This is a Sherman, and this is German Mark III," Pace said. "Th used them on sand-covered tables, work out assault strategies and s forth. But really, they're toys.'

The history of collectibles, Pat said, suggest popular toys of toda will one day be as valuable as the once-common lead soldiers have be

## Uncle Sam still beneficiary with any new tax movement

#### **Associated Press**

NEW YORK — As long as there is a sun in the heavens there will be taxes on Earth, along with all those things that people do about taxes. But nobody can accurately fore-

cast the impact of tax actions. Do you remember the 1981 fed-

eral tax cut that reduced the percentage of income you had to dole out to Uncle Sam - by 36 percent for the median income family? How could you forget it, espe-

cially when states and municipalities, many of them with severe financial problems, used the opening to raise their own taxes. And perhaps you remember the 1978 tax revolt in California, where

voters passed Proposition 13, a measure that limited real estate taxes and deprived the bureaucracy of the money it needed to do its thing,

withheld from the state bureaucracy went instead to the federal govern-

ment That is exactly what happened, according to a University of Califor-nia volume, "California And The American Tax Revolt," based on a Los Angeles Times survey in the spring of 1983.

According to authors Terry Schwadron, Paul Richter and Jack Citrin, much of the multibillion savings ended up in Uncle Sam's wallet. This is how they describe what happened:

"One of the biggest winners in California's tax revolt ... was a tax-gobbling bureaucracy of just the kind the late 1970s 'tax rebels' loved to denounce.

"Uncle Sam may have claimed as much as \$12.5 billion of the estimated \$50 billion that Californians have saved from a tax uprising that

ment's appetite.

"The money flowed to the federa treasury as cuts in property, and state income swelled personal and corporate income and reduced item ized income-tax reductions.

The best intentions of tax-law makers are sometimes frustrate even before laws are passed.

gan's Treasury Department, would limit interest deductions for more gages on second residences. would, however, retain the tax de duction on primary residences.

But tax specialists and smat tions ev homeowners already have figured had bee out how to frustrate such a proposal They plan, of course, to simply take know no out a bigger mortgage on their primary home and pay for the second The home with the cash.

It's legal, and it might remain le ell said. gal even after taxes are revised two sop was widely intended to curb govern- which they surely will be — as so

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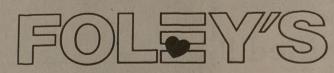
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