



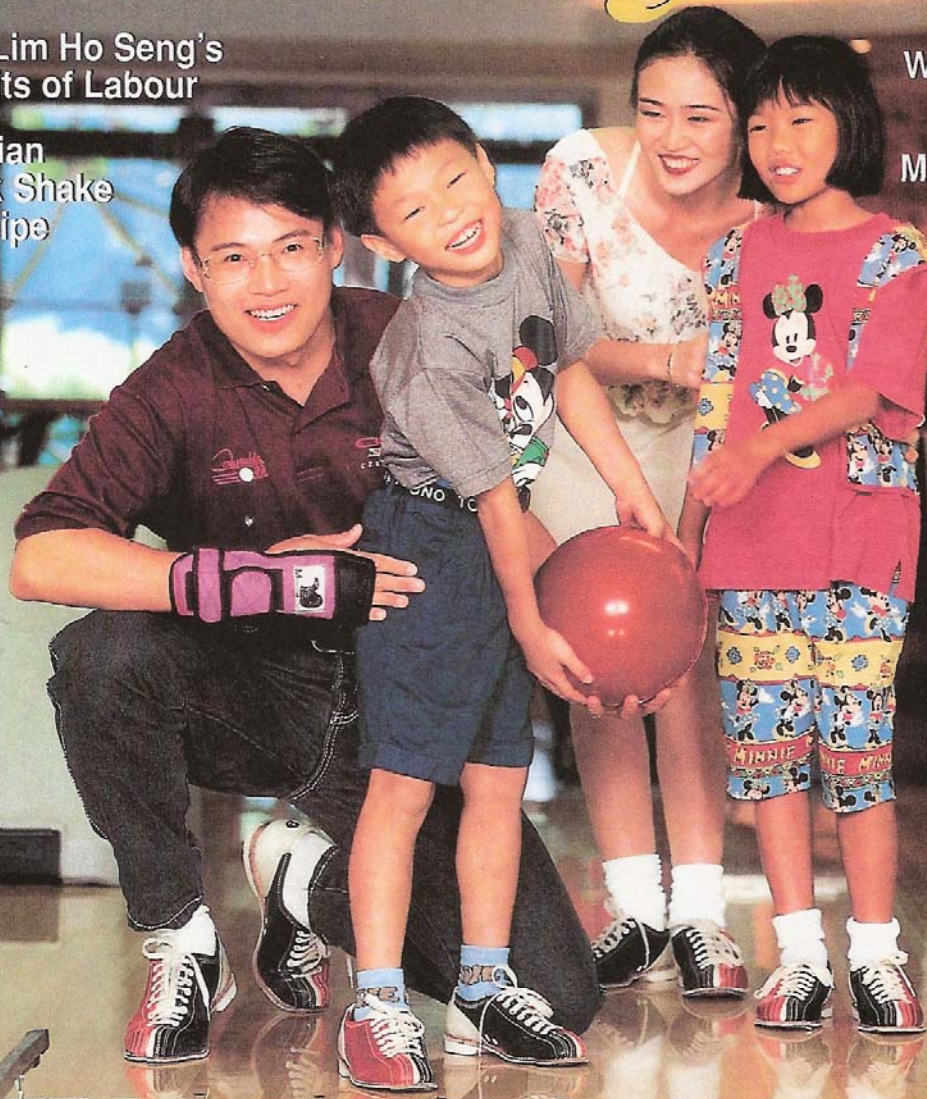
# LifeStyle

Mr Lim Ho Seng's  
Fruits of Labour

Durian  
Milk Shake  
Recipe

Ways to Improve  
your Kitchen

Massive Savings  
on FairPrice  
Coupons

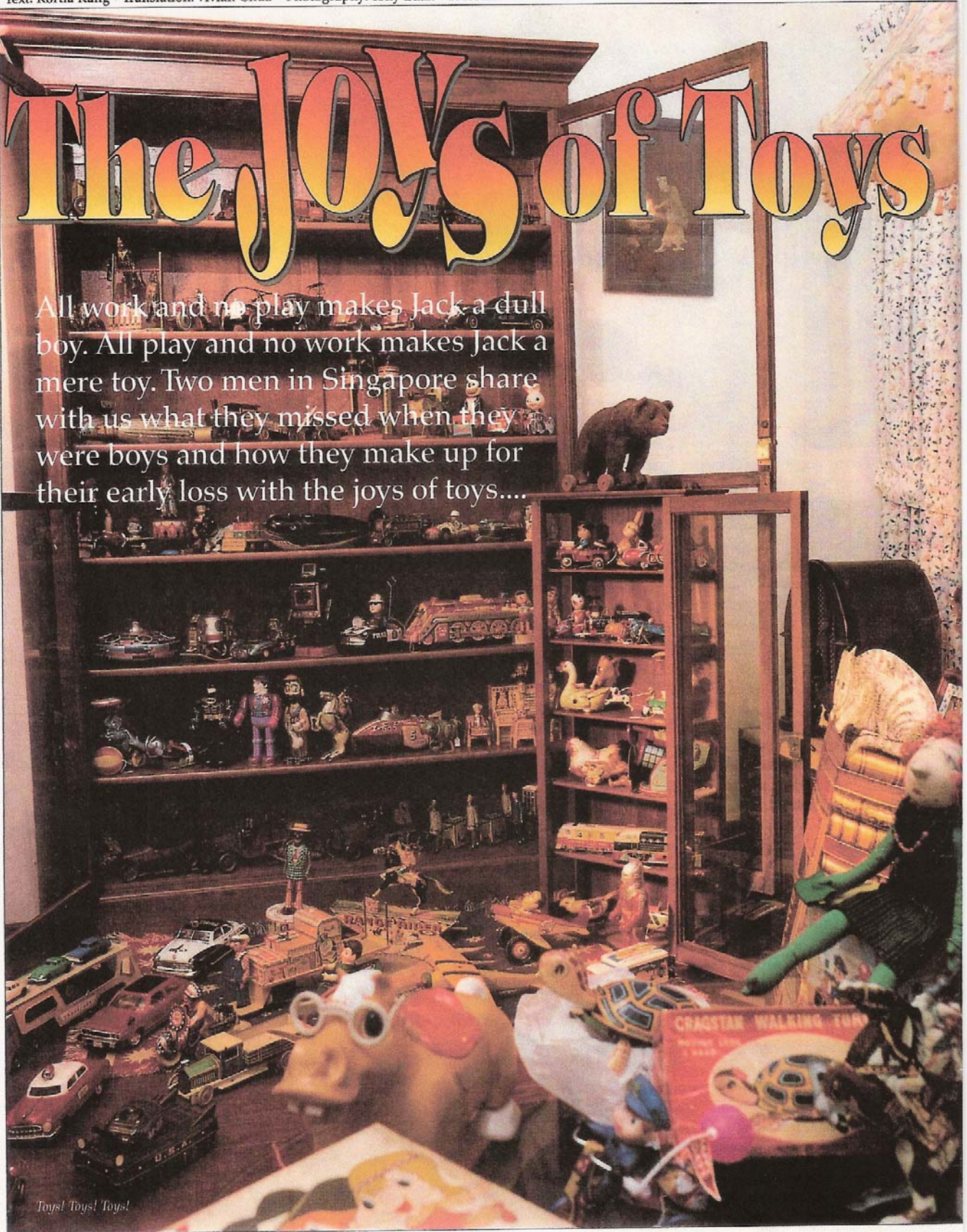


**Rolling, Bowling  
good times at the  
Orchid Country Club**

**Childcare  
Supplement  
inside**

# The JOYS of Toys

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy. Two men in Singapore share with us what they missed when they were boys and how they make up for their early loss with the joys of toys....



*Toys! Toys! Toys!*



Which toy will the children pick?

### Old Toys

Toys have always been part of a child's world. Besides having fun, children learn through playing toys too. Adults often satisfy children's needs with toys. Toys of different eras reflect what societies were like at that time.

In Singapore, some people collect old toys to spice up their lives. They also study the historical and societal changes that occurred through the years as reflected in the toys.

### Old China Toys

Chen Guotai (29), a graphic designer, cultivated an interest in collecting old China toys six years ago. He has many books on such toys and enjoys studying them. "If my collection were given to children, the toys would probably be ruined within a day," he mused. He has about 400 toys which are kept in display cupboards according to their age, type and size. They fall into three categories: power-driven; spring-wound; and hand-pushed.

His collection dates from 1930 to 1970.

Scouting around for China toys has become his obsession. He also exchanges notes with other toy

lovers. "A true collector will collect toys regardless of price," says Guotai.

Whenever on vacation with his wife, he buys books on toys and visits the toy shops to widen his knowledge. China toys reflect the art and culture of the Chinese people. He hopes to write a book on the evolution of China toys to share his joys with others.

### Toy Museum

Another collector who wishes to be known only as Mr Zhang, collects toys from different countries: Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, India, England, France, Germany, and America. "There are less than ten toy collectors in Singapore," he laments.

He loves to travel to other countries with his family, visiting different toy museums and toy shops. Under his sway, his wife and two children who are in primary school, have all shared his hobby too. His

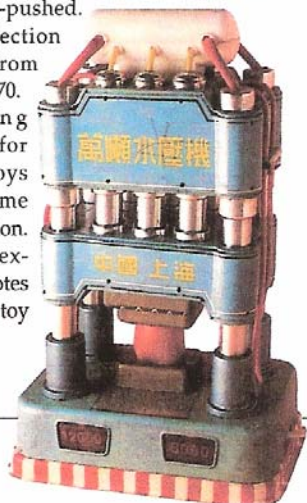
wife treats the toys like pets and frequently dusts them and gives the ones with metallic frames new coats of paint, so that they can always be in good form. His toys are all numbered. He also likes to read and study the historical and societal changes, which are reflected in the changes in the production of toys. During their free time, the Zhangs love to shop around for special and unusual toys.

His parents could not afford to buy him toys when he was young. After he grew up, he never outgrew his desire for toys. That is why he started collecting them in his better days. His interest flourished as the years went by and five years ago, he was so addicted to his hobby that he decided to spend more time and money on it.

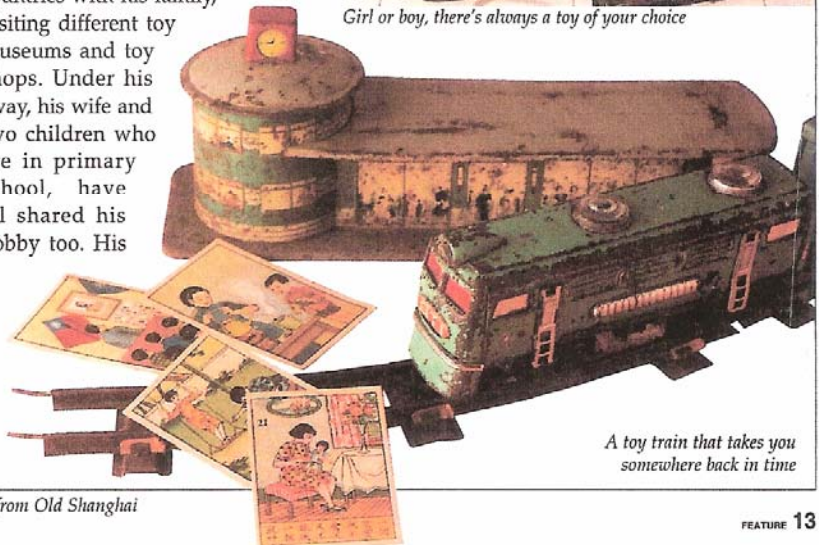
He now has more than 5,000 different toys, which are kept in his semi-detached house. He has a special liking for toys with an ancient flavour and he aspires to open a toy museum one day, so that others may share his passion and cultivate an interest in this hobby too. 15



Girl or boy, there's always a toy of your choice



A toy from Old Shanghai



A toy train that takes you somewhere back in time