

Press Release – Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019

From: The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main

MUSEUM EVENT:

Book Launch – Museum Exhibit Catalog: “Toys of the Future”

Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum - 204 S. Main

A ticketed event – visit www.wichitahistory.org for information.

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum celebrates the publication of its first exhibit catalog “Toys of the Future” with a book launch party. Museum Director Eric Cale says: “Because of the nature of our mission, it is very rare for a museum of local history to create an exhibit catalog; this is our first in 80 years. The Museum features new exhibits frequently and when they close, they’re gone forever; but not in this case as it lives on through the catalog.”

The Catalog captures the artifacts featured in the exhibit which closed this past January. The catalog was made possible through the generosity of celebrated photographer Larry Schwarm who worked with the Museum’s graphic designer Greg Sullivan and the exhibition’s lender, Poet Albert Goldbarth to create the catalog.

The exceptionally popular exhibit featured Goldbarth’s collection of mid-20th century space themed toys from Buck Rogers to the era of Sputnik; before actual space travel became reality. Local history occasionally draws from the larger culture as well as contributes to it. What we know as Science Fiction, when it emerged, likely seemed far-fetched to residence of Sedgwick County Kansas. But as the 20th century progressed, new technology flourished and were seized in remote areas much as they were in the great metropolises of the United States.

In Wichita, the 1911 Walnut Grove Air Show sparked an enthusiasm for flight that led to the city’s leadership in the futuristic aviation industry and fame as the “Air Capital of the World” in less than two decades. It was apparent that the future lay out of this world, onward and upwards. For children of the area, flight became familiar and these toys accentuated that reality, expanding their vision of the future. This child’s view would be taken further as Wichita became central to the war production of airplanes and then host to Titan II missiles during the subsequent Cold War with the Space Age setting upon us.

Submitted by: The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, Contact: wschm@wichitahistory.org or call 316-265-9314 Website: wichitahistory.org Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The Historical Museum is supported in part by The City of Wichita & The Sedgwick County Kansas Board of Commissioners.

OUR VISION: To provide a world class Museum experience, advancing the understanding and exploration of the rich historical and cultural heritage of Wichita and Sedgwick County Kansas.