

## Travelling Suitcase Exhibit Report by Kaitlyn Mitchell, Museum Assistant

First I thought of possible ideas to create my exhibit's theme about. I looked throughout the museum to observe how other exhibits had been crafted. How their write-ups had been worded and how their artifacts were placed. I went through all of our boxes holding artifacts to see what we had to use. I made a list and wrote down what I found interesting and what artifacts other people might like to see displayed. I also went through our photos on the computer to see which ones could be used to tell a story. While going through what we had I noticed there was quite a few kids related things and that we didn't have anything like that already out in the museum.

Once I had gotten my idea sorted out I found all the artifacts and pictures we had related to children and growing up earlier on. I picked what I liked and what I thought would look nice in the exhibit and labelled all the items I thought I might use. When I had the objects I wanted I moved them around in the suitcase to see what would fit and how to make the display look aesthetically pleasing. This took me a little while because the suitcase was quite small and the artifacts I was hoping to use were of a larger size. When I found a layout I was satisfied with I had to figure out to attach the artifacts to the inside of the suitcase without damaging them.

We decided to cut a section of foam board to fit into the bottom of the case and attach the artifacts with fishing line. I cut the foam board to the measurements of the bottom and displayed my layout of the artifacts onto it. I then took a small wooden stick and poked holes around the objects in the places I wished to tie the fishing line. Once that was done I attached the items one by one with the fishing line onto the board. When all artifacts were secure I fit the board into the bottom part of the suitcase.

After the bottom was complete I started on my write-up. I did lots of research at home to find information about what it was like living around the 1950's. I chose to do my research around the 1950's because that's when most of my items were from. When I felt I had found enough information from articles telling experiences of those who had grown up in the 50s I began to write. I wrote based on the information I collected and tied it into the artifacts I had. I wrote about when kids would primarily receive toys and how few they had back then. Also I wrote about the clothes children would wear and what they did to occupy themselves.

When my write-up was finished I collected the photos I wanted and printed both off. I cut them along with the artifact labels using the paper cutter. I then moved them around in the top part of the suitcase to see where they would fit nicely. I put them in the order of how I wanted the story to be told and it to be read and I stuck them to the exhibit with double sided tape. I made sure all of the photos and texts in the suitcase were centered and level before placing them down. Once I made absolute sure that everything was secure and in place I knew my first exhibit was complete.