

Doll Castle News Doll Travel Destinations

To Doll Museums, Doll Collections, and places of interest to the Doll Collector.



Illustrations by Diana Eufrazio Vining

Doll Castle News is pleased to share the following information on sites doll collectors will enjoy visiting, especially over the next several months. Although not a complete list by any means, as we are highlighting only those who responded to our invitation, we're sure you will find several museums or collections that are new to you. Several of the sites are within or near other collections adding expanded interest for all those in your traveling party. So, as we meander around this wonderful country of ours, jump on where you can and travel with us to enjoy some great collections and the folks responsible for them.

Our journey will begin in the state of **New Hampshire**. The **Pauline E. Glidden Toy Museum** is located at 49 Main Street (parking on Pleasant Street), Ashland, NH. It is an 1810 cape with 5 rooms of antique toys including dolls, lithographed tin and iron toys, penny toys, doll houses, kitchen, schoolroom, with a total of over 2000 items. Opening day is July 4th from 11 to 1. Regular hours are July and August, Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2.00 per person. Groups are welcome by appointment, 603-968-7289. Call for information regarding their appraisal Day, Children's Days, etc.

Moving on to **Vermont** we find the **Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium** that was opened in 1891 by industrialist and philanthropist Franklin Fairbanks from his "cabinet of curiosities". The collection has over 170,000 objects, including animals and artifacts, dolls and tools, shells and fossils. The Museum is also home to the only public

planetarium in Vermont. Located on historic Main Street in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, it is open all year. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Open Mondays during May through October. For more information call (802) 748-2372 or check online at www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

At our next stop in **Connecticut**, the **Wilton Historical Society** doll, dollhouse and toy collection is one of the largest in that state. It has been amassed over 40 years with gifts from friends of the Society. Included in the collection with the many dolls and dollhouses are "boy toys", iron and tin wheeled vehicles, ca. 1870-1950, mechanical banks, carriages, buggies, rocking horse, miniatures shops and a permanent train display. The Wilton Historical Society is located at 224 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897. Phone 203-762-7257, Fax 203-762-3297, info@wiltonhistorical.org, www.wiltonhistorical.org. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays 1 to 4 p.m.

Heading west across **New York State** we will stop to visit Linda Greenfield at the **Victorian Doll Museum**, 4332 Buffalo Road, North Chili, New York 14514 (a Rochester suburb). Established in 1970, the museum contains 3000 dolls from the mid-1800's to present: Bisque, china, Schoenhut dolls and circus, advertising, Skookum, Lenci, Peggy Nisbet, boudoir, Dionne Quints, Shirley Temple, and paper dolls. A doll hospital and gift shop are also on the premises. Individuals and doll clubs are welcome and they have a new audio tour. Open February through December, hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 to 4:30. Closed

holidays and July 14 & 15. Adults \$2.50, children \$1.50. Call 585-247-0130 for group reservations.

Entering northern **New Jersey** our first stop in the state will be the **Space Farms Zoo and Museum** on Route 519 in Sussex County. Located here is a doll collection of over 500 antique and classic dolls. Wooden, bisque, china, paper mache, felt, cornhusk, apple and wax dolls are residents at the Doll Museum at Space Farms. Franz Schmidt & Co., Heinrich Handwerk, Simon Halbig, Kestner, Armand Marseille Borgman, Louis Wolfe & Co., Zee and many early Ideal dolls are on display. Call Space Farms at 973-875-5800 or visit their website: spacefarms.com.

Located not far from the offices of Doll Castle News is the spectacular attraction called **Northlandz** in Flemington, NJ. Primarily a miniature world featuring 100 trains running on 8 miles of tracks, thousand of handcrafted buildings, 35 foot mountains and 40 foot bridges, visitors will walk one mile through this indoor tour. Along the route you will pass through the Doll Museum that features over 200 collectible dolls and see the La Peep Dollhouse, a 94 room mansion complete with swimming pool, ballroom with doggie band, and two story library. Several gallery locations and well as a revolving display by Doll Castle News are located throughout Northlandz. A 2000 pipe organ is also housed in the Music Hall in the center of this attraction. Open year round, closed Tuesdays. Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Friday, 10:30 to 4; Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 to 5:30. Adults \$13.75; children 2-12, \$9.75; under 2 free; Senior Citizens \$12.50. Phone: 908-

782-4022. Located at 495 Highway 202 South, just north of Flemington.

In Hopewell, New Jersey we find the **Princeton Doll & Toy Museum** that was established in 1998 to ensure the preservation and continuing appreciation of dolls and toys. The museum featured antique dolls of china, bisque, wax, celluloid and wood, composition dolls, modern dolls, artist dolls, accessories, miniature rooms, doll research library, and special displays and exhibits. Programs and services are offered to members. The public may view the museum any Monday, Friday or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children. Located at 8 Somerset Street in Hopewell, you can call director Virginia B. Aris at 609-333-8600 for more information or check www.princetondollandtoy.org.

Now on to "**Follow the Yellow Brick Road**" Dolls, Toy & Free Museum, 34 S. Main Street, Mullica Hill, New Jersey 08062. Open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 5. They buy, sell and repair dolls and toys. Hundreds of dolls are on display with many for sale. Follow the Yellow Brick Road features over an acre display where life-size "Oz" characters talk to you. Bring your camera, bring your picnic basket. A truly fun place for a doll collector. Only one day is there a charge to Follow the Yellow Brick Road. That is when the 21st annual Doll Show & Sale takes place there on August 19

which will feature over 75 sellers, 10 to 4. (Raindate is August 26). For more information call Dorothy at 856-478-6137

The Doll House Museum, 2004 State Street, **Harrisburg, PA** 17103 is our next stop. Here you will find an extraordinary collection of dolls and toys displayed in a life size Victorian Doll House. Included are over 5,000 dolls from 1840 to present day. Ten rooms make up a World of Memory – fun, imagination and learning. A 1900's style ice cream parlor is available for that special birthday or tea party. G.I. Joe's are in their own headquarters tent, thousands of Hot Wheel cars are on display, and a large O-gauge train layout can be viewed. A unique and exciting experience for all ages, admission is \$5.00. Call for reservations and times. Located near the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. Gift shop also on premises. Phone: 717-233-3099.

Heading southwest we'll next stop at **Kruger Street Toy & Train Museum**, 144 Kruger Street, Wheeling, **West Virginia** 26003. In the Museum's 24,000 square foot restored Victorian schoolhouse, they display thousands of toys and trains of all types. Dolls, dollhouses, trucks, cars, trains, space toys, teddy bears, toy soldiers, and much more. Guided tours, a unique gift shop, ample free parking, and their comfortable, fully handicapped accessible building add to your experience. Check their website or call for current hours, admissions and events. Phone 304-242-8133. www.ToyAndTrain.com.

Our first stop in **Ohio** is the Butler County Historical Society & Research Library located at 327 N. 2nd Street, Hamilton, OH 45011. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone (513) 896-9930 or email bcmuseum@fuse.net. Visit the **Benninghofen House Museum**, an 1860's Victorian Home which is home to the Butler County Historical Society. Included here is a doll collection, genealogical research library, gift shop and original furnishings. Docents available for tours and research. Members free, \$3.00 for non-members 12 and up.

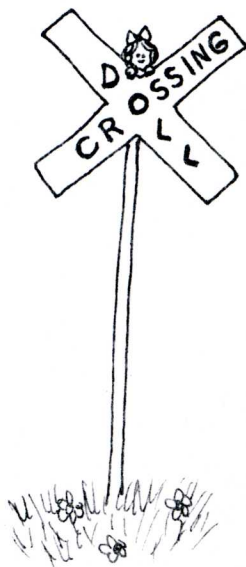
The **Mid-Ohio Historical Museum** features a Doll and Toy Museum with an outstanding collection of thousands of antique to modern dolls, vintage toys,

a miniature circus collection and Lionel Train display. Their gift shop features hundreds of collectible dolls. Open Wed.-Sat., 11 to 5, April through mid-December. Bus tours anytime by appointment. For more information contact the Mid-Ohio Historical Museum, 700 Winchester Pike, Canal Winchester, OH 43110. Phone (614) 837-5573. <http://home.att.net/~dollmuseum>.

The Doll and Toy House at The Milan Historical Museum in Milan, Ohio showcases over 400 antique china, bisque, wax, papier mache and wood dolls. Travel back in time on their seven-building campus nestled on one acre of gardens. Milan was named a National Trust Distinctive Destination. Open May and September, Tuesday through Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.; June, July and August, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 to 5, and Sunday, 1 to 5. The Milan Historical Museum, 10 Edison Drive, P.O. Box 308, Milan, Ohio 44846. Phone 419-499-2968. www.milanhistory.org.

Heading on to the state of **Kentucky** we stop at the **Jeffersontown Historical Museum**, 10635 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40299. The Museum primarily focuses on artifacts and information pertaining to the history of Jeffersontown, which was incorporated in 1797. Part of the collection includes 1400 dolls from various countries, which are rotated in exhibits based on various themes. Also on exhibit is a rare 1920's two-story Schoenhut dollhouse. Open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed holidays. Phone 502-261-8290.

The first stop in **Indiana** is at **Dolly Mama's Museum of Dolls & Toys**, 211 South Merrill Street, Fortville, Indiana 46040, just minutes from Northeast Indianapolis. Here the visitor will find a large collection of antique and collectible dolls, doll houses, music boxes, tin toys, clowns, marionettes and puppets, Teddy Bears, children's and doll furniture, and more. Featured displays include "Gunda", a angel crafted by C. Larson of Vintage Dollworks (one of only 50 made), and Amish Dolls by Sharon Brochenbury that were the inspiration for this museum. Admission is free although donations are kindly accepted. Call 317-485-5339, Phyllis Baskerville, owner/curator, for an appointment to visit.





Walking inside **Vera's Little Red Dollhouse Museum** in Middletown, Indiana, is like peeking behind the scenes of a fairy tale. Opened in 1986, this museum is located next to the home of Vera and Bob Sanders at 4385 W. Co. Rd. 850 N., approximately 3 1/2 miles east of Middletown. It features two large rooms with every type of doll imaginable. One room is a nursery filled with baby dolls in cribs, playpens and baby beds. Vera has made and collected the dolls and her daughter, Amy, has collected animals. One room is called "Amy's Animal Kingdom" with over 1600 animals in it. The museum is wheelchair accessible. Admission is by donation. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone: 765-533-3453.

The Elkhart County Historical Museum is the home of more than 20,000 artifacts reflecting their county's heritage. The fourteen rooms of the museum are set up to reflect various historical themes and time periods. For those interested in dolls the museum has several collections including some hand painted facial expression porcelain dolls, a collection of ethnic dolls and even some locally handmade dolls. The museum is located in Bristol, Indiana. From the 80/90 Toll Road exit turn left onto SR 15 N. At the stop sign turn right onto SR 120. The museum is located west of the stoplight on the north side of SR 120. Open hours are February through the first weekend in December, Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed major holidays. For more information call the museum at 574-848-4322.

Entering **Wisconsin** we'll first stop at the **Fennimore Doll & Toy Museum**. "Every Toy Has a Story To Tell" in the Fennimore Doll & Toy Museum one-of-a-kind collections of cartoon, comic and animated film characters, tops, Fisher Price® pull toys, 736 custom styled Barbie® dolls, and dolls of many

materials from 1810 to present day. Open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 1 through October. Located in picturesque southwest Wisconsin in downtown Fennimore at 1140 Lincoln Avenue. www.fennimore.com/dolltoy/. Email: dolltoy@fennimore.com. Phone 1-888-867-7935.

Featured in an article in Doll Castle News many years ago, shortly after it was started in 1979 by Florence Heim, and still "going strong" today, is the **Busville Doll Museum**, W8021 West 24th Rd., Crivitz, WI 54114. Located 4 miles south of Crivitz or 3 miles north of Beaver on Hwy. 141, then 2 blocks west on 24th Rd. About 50 miles north of Green Bay. Featuring dolls from the late 40's to the present, doll houses, teddy bears, toys and more. All in the unique setting of old buses. Antique shop, too. Open April through October. If they are home, they are open, so it's best to call in advance. 715-854-2148. Donations appreciated.

Now on to visit Marlene Hansen who feels she may have the largest collection of dolls in Wisconsin. Housed within **Marlene's Silver Wheel Manor Museum**, N6221 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI 54935, are over 4000 dolls ranging from tiny porcelain penny dolls to life size mannequins. Marlene has collected pretty dolls, doll houses, play furniture, vintage toys and many other things that have caught her eye over the past 55 years. Add to this things collected by her mother (who just turned 100) and her daughter, and the result is a huge range of interesting playthings. To find this private museum take the new Hwy 151 bypass on the east side of Fond du Lac to County Highway "T", turn west one block, and then south another block on County Highway "K". Regular hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 12 but it is best to call first. Phone 920-922-1608. www.toomanydolls.com. On the same property you will find Costume Closet and Bridals by Marlene.

While in Fond du Lac, stop at the **Historic Octagon House** of Fond du Lac. This Civil War home was due to be demolished but through the efforts of Marlene's family it was restored and is now filled with collectibles. Dolls grace most every corner of the 12-room home. Open April through October on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from

1 to 5 p.m. Other times by appointment. Located at 276 Linden Street, their phone number is 920-923-5656. www.octagonhouseFDL.com

A magical experience awaits you when you enter the Doll Museum of the **Little Falls Railroad & Doll Museum** in Cataract, Wisconsin. Over 1600 dolls are on display, from the German dolls of the 1800's to today's Barbies. Vignettes include a 5' Victorian lady in her walking suit, a little girl dressed in her mother's clothes before a mirror, and a Victorian Christmas scene. See an exhibit of Madame Alexander dolls portraying the President's First Ladies in their beautiful inaugural gowns. Doll gift shop on premises. Doll repair and evaluations are available. Open Thursday through Monday, 1 to 5 p.m., April 1 through November 1, or by chance or appointment. Located at 9208 County Hwy II between Sparta and Black River Falls, call them at 608-272-3266. www.raildoll.org. James & Joanne Brown, curators.

Now on to **Iowa** and a stop at the **Dumont Museum**, located on Hwy. 149, three miles south, 1/8 mile west of Sigourney, Iowa. The museum offers a variety of collectibles including a variety of German & French dolls as well as Effanbee, Shirley Temple and lots of collectible character dolls and Barbies. Many farm related collectibles and toys related to the history of the area are housed here. Open weekends May through October, 10 to 5, or anytime by appointment. Call 641-622-2592.

In Kansas City, **Missouri**, one will not want to miss the **Toy & Miniature Museum of Kansas City**. Here throughout 28 beautifully adorned rooms the visitor will find old-fashioned tin toys as well as antique dolls and an assortment of scale miniatures. Located at 5235 Oak Street, the museum is open Wednesday-Saturday, 10 to 4; Sunday, 1 to 4. Closed annually in September, call for specific information, 816-333-9328. Admission is \$6. adults; \$5. seniors and students; \$4. children 5-12; and under age 5 free. www.umkc.edu/tmm.

Cross the state to St. Louis and find more miniatures at the **Miniature Museum of Greater St. Louis**. The museum features a 2-story shopping center, a replica of the St. Louis IX Basilica, a Georgian apartment building, numerous dollhouses,

vignettes and roomboxes. Several Artisan cases highlight furniture, porcelain, silver, dolls, flowers and more. Seasonal and special exhibits showcased regularly. Gift shop and Reference Library. The museum sponsors the Gateway Miniature Fair in April and October. Miniature Museum of Greater St. Louis, 4746 Gravois Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116. Phone (314) 832-7790. <http://miniaturemuseum.org>. Hours: Wed.-Sat., 11 to 4; Sunday, 1 to 4. Admission: Adults \$5., Seniors 62+ \$4., Students 13-18 \$4., Children 12 & under \$2, members free.

Heading southwest we'll travel to Branson, Missouri, and stop at the **World's Largest Toy Museum**. The toy museum has toys on display dating from the Civil War period of the 1800's to present day. Their guests travel down memory lane when viewing the Barbie dolls, Mrs. Beasley, Shirley Temple, doll buggies, board games, Cushman motorcycles, B-B guns, cap pistols, etc. There are over one hundred antique trains, antique toy tractors, Howdy Doody, Power Rangers, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers toys, pop guns and thousands of other treasures from yesteryear. Open Mon.-Sat. from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., the World's Largest Toy Museum is located at 3609 W. Hwy. 76, Branson, MO 65616. Phone 417-332-1499. Also located in the same building is the Harold Bell Wright Museum. Mr. Wright is the author of "The Shepherd of the Hills" which really started the early settlers and now millions of tourists coming to the Ozarks/Branson.

On to **Mississippi** and a stop at Vicksburg. **The Yesterday's Children Antique Doll & Toy Museum** is in an 1849 building at 1104 Washington Street in downtown Vicksburg. It has a gift shop and four rooms of displays. Girls' toys include 1,000+ dolls – mid 1800 China Heads, primitive rag dolls, late 1800 French and German bisques, 1900 compos, Madame Alexanders, Shirley Temples, Barbies, artist and other contemporary dolls. Boys' toys include pedal cars, trucks, trains, guns, G.I. Joes, and construction equipment. The museum also has Steiff and artist bears, hobby/rocking horses, doll carriages and doll houses, etc. Hours: 9:30 to 4:30. Monday through Saturday. www.yesterdaychildrenmuseum.com. Phone 601-638-0650.

A unique doll collection, "The Eliza Cruce Hall Doll Collection", is located at the **Ardmore Public Library**, 320 E Street NW, **Ardmore, OK** 73401. It features historic and valuable dolls including Queen Anne, c. 1710, "Marie Antionette" dolls, c. 1776, as well as Kruse, Steiff, Armand Marseille, Kestner, Severes, Meissen, Ravca, Klumpe, Montanari, Bye-lo, Kewpie, Schoenhut, Madame Alexander, Vogue, Patsy, etc. Also, miniature tea sets in gold, silver, brass, pewter, wood, ivory glass and china. Open Monday-Thursday, 10 to 8:30; Friday and Saturday, 10 to 4; and Sunday 1 to 5. There is no admission charge. Phone 580-223-8290.

Close to 5,000 dolls of all kinds are on display at **Paradise Doll Museum**, 119 So. 6th Street, Towanda, Kansas 67144. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Phone 316-536-2710.

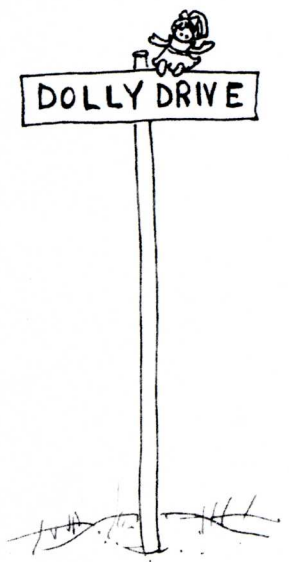
In **Lincoln, Nebraska**, readers can visit the **Lux Center for the Arts** where childhood's yesterdays become vivid in the Gladys Lux Doll exhibit. A selection from her collection of 1600 dolls is presented in a curated exhibit, ranging from a Queen Anne Doll to modern Barbies®. Among types on exhibit are: china, bisque, composition, wax, metal, wood, papeir-mache, Native American and modern. The Lux Center for the Arts is located at 2601 North 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68504. Phone 402-466-8692. Hours are Tuesday-Friday 11-5; Saturday 10-5.

On to **South Dakota** and a stop at the **Enchanted World Doll Museum**. Here 5,000 antique and modern dolls are displayed in 435 exhibits depicting nursery rhymes and scenes from life in the 1800s-1900s. Featuring dolls from 1400s to Star Wars, 2000 ethnic dolls from 127 countries, dollhouse room, buggies, and toys. Giftery includes modern and antique dolls and doll related items. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, June, July and August. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday other months. Closed November through January. Located at 615 North Main, Mitchell, South Dakota 57301. Phone 605-996-9896. www.enchantedworlddollmuseum.com.

Our next stop will be in Douglas, **Wyoming**, where the **Wyoming Pioneer Memorial Museum** houses an extensive doll collection varying from leather, wood, china and cloth, to

the more modern composition, rubber and vinyl. Some of the earliest dolls include a Mason Taylor 1873 wax over wood, with pewter hands and feet. Also featured is a Civil War China head doll from the Swift family wearing original costume, as well as an 1825 papier mache doll in original balck and green dress. Also at the museum is a pre-1891 Kestner bride doll (27" tall) with original velvet costume. An English peg-jointed wooden doll from the early 1800's also resides in the collection. An unusual addition is the Polish Girl doll, Lenci type, which Madame Paderewski commissioned to help the WWI effort ca. 1917. A Dutch doll ca. 1880 (Parian) depicts Alice In Wonderland. "Struwwelpeter" (Slovenly Peter), by Charlotte Parlo has sisal hair, oilcloth hands and his own book. The museum also exhibits several varieties of fashion dolls, story book dolls, bride dolls, and western themed dolls. Located at 400 West Center Street, their phone number is 307-358-9288. Museum summer hours are Monday-Friday, 8 to 5; Saturday, 1 to 5. Winter hours are Monday-Friday, 8 to 5.

Traveling on to **Colorado** we will visit the **Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys**. This unique museum has been referred to as Denver's "best kept secret". Exhibits showcase a collection dating from 1680 through today. Here one will learn about architecture, interior design, lifestyles, art, fashion, history and folklore. Located in the historic Pearce McAllister cottage, a visit to the museum will be filled with fun and laughter. Its gift shop has unique and



affordable selections. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 to 4; Sunday, 1 to 4; closed Monday and major holidays. Adults \$5., seniors (62+) and children (5-16) \$4., under 5 free. Located at 1880 Gaylord Street in Denver. Phone 303-322-1053. www.DMMDT.com.

The **Pioneer Memorial Museum**, located at 300 North Main Street in Salt Lake City, **Utah**, is noted as the world's largest collection of artifacts on one particular subject, and features displays and collections of memorabilia from the time the earliest settlers entered the Valley of the Great Salt Lake until the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The Museum holds the belongings of a hardy pioneer people who migrated 2,000 miles west across the plains from Nauvoo, Illinois, and from all parts of the world to seek religious freedom and to build a great city of Zion in the Salt Lake Basin. The Pioneer Memorial Museum owns over 500 dolls. The exhibits display a wide variety of nineteenth-century dolls, many owned by the pioneers that actually crossed the plains. The museum also has been the recipient of two complete doll collections. One collection was accumulated by Nellie May Doran, which includes dolls from all over the world. The second collection was made by Ann Crossman Horning and includes dolls from the early 20th Century made from such materials as apples, avocado seeds, and bread dough. For hours of operation call the museum at 801-538-1050.

In **Phoenix**, we'll stop at the **Arizona Doll and Toy Museum** located in the Stevens House at Heritage and Science Park, (S.W. corner of 7th and Monroe St.). The museum houses a wide variety of antique dolls and toys, miniatures, doll houses, and modern collectibles for you viewing pleasure. The authentic 1912 schoolroom featuring antique dolls as "students" is everyone's favorite. Their Gift Shop is fully stocked with unique items for children and adults who are young at heart. Tours for groups can be scheduled. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 to 4; Sunday, noon to 4; closed Monday. Call for hours during the month of August. (602) 253-9337.

Now on to the west coast and a stop in **California**. The **Susan Quinlan**

Doll & Teddy Bear Museum & Library is located at 122 W. Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. 3000 dolls and teddy bears are on display in this charming museum in beautiful Santa Barbara, California. Three large galleries present displays which include book-related dolls and bears, teddy bears and dolls related to the various ethnic groups which have settled in California, Teddy Roosevelt, a fairy tale forest, space toys, puppets, and much more. Many of the items are one of a kind or limited editions. Visitors may enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee or tea and admire the murals in the tea room and browse through the gift shop. The research library is available by appointment. Admission: \$6.50 adults, \$3.50 pre-teens. Phone (805) 730-1707.

Heading north into **Oregon** our next stop is the **Dolly Wares Doll Museum & Repair** at 36th St. and Highway 101, Florence, Oregon 97439. Here the visitor will find a most complete doll collection with more than 3000 dolls of all sizes and shapes. Antique, French, German and English dolls as well as ethnic dolls from around the world. Included is a pre-Columbian figure of clay, 17th and 18th century wooden dolls, wax, papier mache, china, bisque, celluloid, composition, plastic, paper and unusual dolls. Also, American Artist Dolls, Schoenhut, Effanbee, Horsman, Ideal, advertising, comic strip, famous and infamous people, Kewpies, Storybook dolls and a multitude of others. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 to 5. Phone 541-997-3391.

Next stop, the **Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art**, 1116 108th Avenue NE, Bellevue, **Washington** 98004. Housing an exquisite collection of over 1400 dolls and miniatures dating from the 1680s to the present, the Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art is dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of dolls as an art form. Sharing the premises with the collection is a lovely English garden, as well as a wonderfully curated museum store. "Lest You Think Us Frail - The Wax Doll", is a new exhibition on display from May 21 throughout October of 2006. Located 15 minutes east of Seattle, the Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art promises to be a fascinating and delightful visit. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10 to 5; Sunday, 1 to 5.

Admission \$7.; over 64, \$6.; ages 5-17, \$5; family rate \$25. Phone 425-455-1116. www.dollart.com.

After traveling some distance, we'll visit the **Maxine & Jesse Whitney Museum**, located in Valdez, **Alaska**, which is reported to have the largest private collection of Native Alaskan art and artifacts in the world, including numerous dolls. The museum is open from May 1 to mid-September from 9:00 to 7:00. Admission is \$5. with discounts for seniors, students and military. If visiting Valdez in winter, call 907-834-1614 to set an appointment to view the collection.

Our final stop on this tour will require boarding an airplane and a trip to **Hawaii**. Here we'll visit Florence and John Marton at the **Hawaii Loves Beautiful Dolls** museum in Kailua on the Island of Oahu. It is Hawaii's largest collection numbering approximately 5,000 Barbie, Ken, Barbie's family members and friends. The collection contains Vintage Special Edition Porcelain dolls and many more. In addition to managing the museum Florence displays a small collection of Barbie and Ken dolls dressed in her handmade Hawaiian costumes at the Pacific Beach Hotel in Waikiki. Call for scheduled dates. 808-262-9138.

Well, that brings us to the end of this year's journey. We certainly hope all readers will be able to visit at least one of the museums or collections along the route that is new to them. We'd also love to hear from any readers with comments after their visits. So enjoy, have a good time, and be safe. ♡

