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Radio flyer town and country wagon history

The classic Radio Flyer Row Cart (pictured left) drove the kids forward with their flowing push-pull movement as they steered with their feet. The kids had fun while they strengthened their motor skills! For many people, an antique Radio Flyer carriage brings back fond memories of childhood. A real piece of classic Americana, the carriages hold a special place in the hearts of millions of children who played with them over the years. Today they can be valuable antiques, appreciated by collectors and enthusiasts. Radio Flyer carriages have a fascinating history. When Antonio Pasin came from Italy to the United States in 1914, he was only sixteen years old. Three years later, Antonio had saved enough money to open a small woodworking shop. The young man worked there at night and handmade wooden carts. During the day, he marketed his wagons. Related articles Antique vases Values Antique Doll Houses Antique Chairs The Liberty Coaster Company In 1923, after antonio's business had grown to include several employees, he founded the Liberty Coaster Company. He named the company after the Statue of Liberty, which had welcomed him into the country. Pasin continued to grow his company, and began using the technology for metal stamping and mass manufacturing techniques similar to those used in the automotive industry. Radio Flyer Wagon Changed the company's name to Radio Steel &amp; Manufacturing in 1930, Pasin also introduced its first steel wagon, called Radio Flyer. The now classic toy was named after Pasin's love and fascination with radio and air flight. The high steel coaster wagons were a great success and allowed Pasin to increase production while lowering the price. With affordable carriages, the company's slogan became: For every boy. For every girl. Thousands of children enjoyed these classic toys. Carriage models and dates During its history, the Radio Flyer wagon went through a number of popular design changes. Understanding these can help you identify and date a carriage. 1930s - Streak-O-Lite and American Beauty Inspired by the giant, 45-foot Radio Flyer carriage on display at the 1933 World's Fair, as well as streamlined styling of fast passenger trains from the era, radio flyer carriages of the 1930s were elegant and shiny. They all had metal bodies, colorful wheels and lots of imaginative-sparkly details. American Beauty - This design had the classic carriage style, but it came in brilliant blue with red and blue wheels. American Beauty was emblazoned on the side. The Zep - This red beauty featured a flared, streamlined body with features of Art Deco style. The red wheels were partially covered with flared fenders, and since then the name Zep boasted in white letters. Streak-O-Lite - One of the most iconic styles, this carriage had a tapered design and an optional genuine working headlight on the front. It was red with red wheels and had a on the side. Because steel was needed for the war effort, the World War II Radio Flyer wagons were made of wood. The company redesigned the wheel bearings to be smooth and quiet during this period. Coaster King - With a shallow tan wooden carriage box and shiny red wheels, this classic style featured the name Coaster King in red paint on the side. Highway Chief - This model had high green wooden sides with slats, making it great for kids who wanted to haul a lot of things. It had big red wheels and highway chief in white letters on the side. 1950s - Character Wagons and Radio Chief As the Baby Boomers were wagon aged, Radio Flyer launched some new designs to appeal to this generation. With the war over, materials such as steel were abundant again, and the classic steel wagon shape was back in production. Character wagons - Popular characters like Mickey Mouse and Davy Crockett found their way onto the wagons of this era. These were different colors, including light blue and yellow, and they contained standard steel carriage shape with the name on the page. Radio Chief - This classic red carriage had extended sides or rails of blue and white, similar to three Highway Chief in the 1940s. It allowed the children to carry many things, but with a fun 1950s style. The name was printed in white on the side. Values of Vintage and Antique Wagons The value of a Radio Flyer will depend a lot on the condition. Many of these carriages were used hard by the children who loved them. Since they were often made of steel, rust is a big problem. It is unusual to find a very old carriage in unspoiled state. Unlike many other antiques, this is a rare occurrence when restoration can increase its value. The value ranges from under $20 to several hundred dollars, but many pre-1970 models in good condition sell for about $30 to $75. Think of some of these models: A vintage classic red Radio Flyer with some rust and peeling paint recently sold for $75 on eBay. It had all parts and was functional, but it needed some cosmetic attention to restore it to its original beauty. A Streak-O-Light wagon from the 1930s in very rough condition is still worth $100 to $125. Restored, the carriage can be worth as much as $450. A three Radio Flyer, probably from the 1940s, sold for $150 recently, according to LiveAuctioneers. This example had peeling paint, rust, and a partial missing mark on the side. It is also important to note carriages have value even for their parts. For example, the rails from a Radio Chief wagon sold for $26 on eBay. Where to find an antique radio flyer Wagon Whether you are a collector of these iconic toys or just want one to show in your home holding a favorite collectible doll or teddy bear, antique and vintage Radio Flyer carriages are easy to find at antique shops both on and off the line. Other places to search for an antique or vintage Radio Flyers include Smoky Mountain Pedal Car Show - This toy show specializes in pedal cars, but it's also a great place to look for antique carts. Similar shows can be part of regular fairs and car shows in your area. eBay - Here you will find wagons from all over the world. Pay special attention to shipping rates, as these are large, heavy items that can be costly to ship. TIAS - TIAS mostly has Radio Flyer memorabilia, but it sometimes has actual carriages for sale. Come back from time to time if you're in the market for one. Flea markets - Local flea markets are one of your best sources for these difficult to send collectibles. Get there early to have the best chance of finding a wagon in good condition. Both sentimental and monetary value Whether you have an old carriage you want to recover or you are in the market for one of these classic toys, Radio Flyer wagons have both sentimental and monetary value to children of all ages. Take a moment to look around to find the model that's right for you. This article is about the company. For the film, see Radio Flyer (film). Radio FlyerIndustryToy industryPredecessorRadio Steel &amp; ManufacturingFoundedChicago 1917 (1917)Founder Antonio PasinHeadquartersChicago, Illinois, United StatesArea servedWorldwideWebsitewww.radioflyer.com Radio Flyer is an American toy company best known for its popular red toy cart. Radio Flyer also produces scooters, tricycles, bikes,[1] horses and ride-ons. The company was founded in 1917 and is based in Chicago, Illinois. History Young girl with Radio Flyer wagon circa 1955 Antonio Pasin began building three toy carts in Chicago in 1917, selling them to area stores. He worked as a craftsman at the time, sold mostly phonograph cabinets, and built small wooden carts to carry around his tools. After receiving numerous requests from customers of the phonograph to buy the wagons as well, he refocused his business on the wagons. [2] His business grew until the Liberty Coaster Company, named after the Statue of Liberty, was formed in 1923. The requirements of these original wooden cars, called liberty coaster, quickly surpassed production. Pasin began making metal wagons of stamped steel in 1927. [2] In 1930, the company was renamed Radio Steel &amp; Manufacturing. The renamed company produced steel-bodied wagons and used assembly line manufacturing techniques. The new Radio Flyer carriages were named as a tribute to two famous men of the day: Marconi and Lindbergh. [4] The Italian inventor and engineer Guglielmo Marconi developed, demonstrated and marketed the first successful long-range wireless telegraph and in 1901 sent the first transatlantic radio signal. [5] Charles Lindbergh completed the first solo, fly over the Atlantic ocean in 1927. Pasin combined these two wonders and christened his new metal wagons Radio Flyer. [3] In 1933, Chicago hosted the World's Fair, Century of Progress, and Radio Steel was asked to be part of the celebration. Antonio Pasin took on huge debts to finance the construction of a 45-foot-tall tree and plaster Coaster Boy statue depicting a boy driving a Liberty Coaster wagon. During the Coaster Boy exhibition Pasin sold miniatures for 25 cents. During World War II, steel was an important war material. From 1942 to 1945, the company moved production to portable five gallon Blitz-es for the U.S. Army. [8] In 1987, Radio Steel changed its name to Radio Flyer after its popular flagship little red carriage. [8] Robert Pasin, Antonio's grandson, has been CEO since 1997. [7] Today, the company produces a wide range of children's products, including scooters, tricycles, ride-ons, horses, battery operations and wagons. In 2015, Fortune Radio Flyer named number one in the top 25 small businesses to work for. [10] The radio flyer wagon, tricycle and hobby horse circa 1960. Liberty Coaster Company began producing the three bodied No. 4 Liberty Coaster in 1923. In 1927, Pasin replaced the wooden body with stamped steel, utilized assembly line manufacturing techniques and earned the nickname Little Ford.. [12] 1,500 carriages a day rolled off assembly lines even during the Great Depression. [13] Since 2002, the company has produced plastic as well as metal-bodied wagons. [14] A number of designs and styles have been produced by Radio Flyer, often inspired by cars or popular culture on that day. The Zephyr, produced in the 1930s, paid tribute to the Chrysler Airflow. [13] In the 1950s, a yellow wagon inspired by the film Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier and a blue wagon was produced in collaboration with Disney's Mickey Mouse Club. [15] Wagons from the 1970s lent the stylings to today's muscle cars, including Fireball 2001 inspired by Evel Knievel. [16] In the 1990s, the Quad Shock Wagon was introduced as an echo of sport utility vehicles. [16] The Ultimate Family Wagon, introduced in 2007, includes a paraspad and an adjustable seat; The design won a Chicago Innovation Award in 2007. [14] The Radio Flyer Wagon was inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame at The Strong in Rochester, New York in 1999,[16] and its creator, Antonio Pasin, was inducted into the Toy Industry Hall of Fame in 2003. Radio Flyer Tricycle Radio Flyer Tricycle Other Products Inchworm is a wheel ride-on toy powered by the bouncing movement of the rider. It is styled as a Geometer larva, or inchworm. It was originally produced by Hasbro in the 1970s. [edit] Radio Flyer Ziggle, introduced in 2013, is a ride-on toy for kids 3 to 8 with four wheels and no pedals. [19] The children move forward by twisting and twisting their bodies in a back and forth motion and moving the handles at the same time. [20] [20] In 2016, Radio Flyer introduced a new partnership product, the Tesla Model S for Kids. The first and only battery-powered ride-on for kids with Lithium Ion Technology. Flightspeed™ lithium ion batteries are designed to provide the best performance available with a lower impact on the environment. It can easily switch between a top speed of 6 mph and a parent limited speed of 3 mph with the flip of a switch placed in the trunk. The car can be customized and customizable. In popular culture, the easily recognizable little red carriage produced by Radio Flyer is used in several artistic works, including film and television. A character in the 1992 drama Radio Flyer flies to safety in a converted Radio Flyer carriage. Radio Flyer carriages are displayed in a store exhibition in the 1983 film A Christmas Story. The June 24, 2013 episode of Let's Make a Deal parodied this carriage as a Zonk is offered under the name Zonk Flyer. Sculpture The 13.7-metre-high Coaster Boy wood and plaster statue of a young boy and cart was constructed by Radio Flyer for the Chicago World's Fair, Century of Progress from 1933. It is 3.7 meters high and 8.2 meters long. The interactive sculpture was sculpted by Ken Spiering and installed in 1989. [22] The world's largest carriage is a sculpture commissioned by Radio Flyer in honor of their 80th anniversary. It is nine times the size of a small red wagon, weighing 6,800 kg. [24] Notes ^ Radio Flyer Classic Red 10-Inch Bicycle with Chain Drive. Tumblon LLC. In 2012, The American Certain (16) was one of the largest in 16 years. ^ a b Wei-Haas, Maya. In 1999, an Italian immigrant was published in the Radio Flyer Wagon. Smithsonian. 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In 1999, he became 100,000,000 people. ^ The world's largest carriage external links The company's website A detailed story about Radio Flyer World's Largest carriage distributed in the UK and EIRE by Asobi Retrieved from

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