



# THE RIDER REPORT

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## Tickets Anyone?

One of the neat recreational pastimes for young and old is seeing entertainment live, up-close and personal. It could be anywhere: an indoor arena, outdoor stadium, casino, playhouse, theatre, hotel, church or anyplace a large group may gather. The trouble is how to get quality tickets when and where.

For anybody who has tried to get tickets to their favorite show and failed, the wailing lament is that it cost too much and sold out way too quickly. Actually, there are more ways to buy tickets to popular shows than ever. But complaints keep pouring in that retailers, who make their living on buying and selling tickets, are grabbing more than their fair share limiting access to the general public.

Decades ago, the only place to buy tickets was the box office or by phone to Ticketron or Ticketmaster outlets. Now, there are multiple ways to obtain ducats, and you have to be a savvy shopper to be first in line.

While Congress is investigating ways for mass retailers to limit their purchasing power through computer software called bots, that enable them to buy blocks of tickets at once, there is something that you can do.

Here are four ways:

1. Sign up for venue memberships: For a small price or none at all, you can be on their mailing list which often send out pre-sale ticket notices.
2. Watch for tour sponsor pre-sales: A recent promotional strategy is for credit card members to have access to prime tickets exclusively or before the general public.
3. Join artist fan clubs: The most avid fans often get the best seats in the house.
4. Get in line: Those who make the effort and camp out often get the first crack at primo seats. Sometimes the old-fashioned way makes the most sense. ■

## Toys in the Hall of Fame

This is the time of year when visions of sugar plums and toys dance in the head of every youngster. The best ones – those creative innovations that have made a lasting impression and have inspired the memories of children everywhere – make into the National Toy Hall of Fame.

This year's inductees are Dungeons & Dragons, Fisher-Price Little People and Swing, three different entertainment products that have affected the lives of little ones for generations.

The modern era fantasy game, Dungeons & Dragons, merged war games with imaginary fantasy and science fiction. Perhaps inspired by Star Trek, this '70s game introduced a narrator, who moderated a story revealed by a toss of dice and the reaction of players to their roles as fictional characters with personality strengths and weaknesses against characters of their opponents.

While still a board game, it was the perfect prelude to a world of animated characters and gaming on the Internet. It was the first of its breed.

Fisher-Price first sold its Little People in 1959. They were single, small blocks of woods fashioned into people and background settings that elementary school children could stash away and play with them in play sets that could feature them on a farm, at a service station, an amusement park or zoo.

To avoid the threat of them being a choking hazard, they evolved to become "Chunky People" with arms and legs. Still, they've become an incredibly popular play toy for small kids around the world. More than two billion Little People have been sold worldwide.

Swings have been a part of human recreation and amusement since mankind has roamed the planet. Ancient cave drawings have depicted swings, and it was one of the most basic of toys. All one needed was a few pieces of wood and a length of rope or hemp to attach the seat to an overhanging branch of a tree.

It became the functional centerpiece of early urban playgrounds, and now still finds its places in parks and recreational centers, though wood has been replaced with resins and tubular metal sets.

Kids learned balance, coordination and a bit of science, that if they swung their legs forward on the forward swing and tucked their legs back as they swung back, they could create wider and longer arcs for a thrilling ride.

The National Museum of Play is located at The Strong, in Rochester, N. Y. and has been the exhibit site of some of the most popular toys and games in history since 1998. ■

*Teresa's Thoughts*



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One of the things we think about during the holidays is giving. Giving, in the truest sense, is to help and assist those less fortunate.

That's why we toss some coins in The Salvation Army red kettle, open up our envelopes at home to write checks for charities, and do volunteer work at soup kitchens and lend a helping hand to those who desperately need it.

There are many organizations this time of year that have individuals or families who you can "adopt."

In fact, The Clark County Bar Association has partnered with Van Vista Assisted Living to provide much needed items for their low-income senior residents.

Whatever you choose to do, remember the blessings that we have been given and help give back to your community. It'll be the best holiday gift you'll ever receive!

Happy holidays, everyone!