

TOY (4) – WOODEN, MECHANICAL

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

Repository:	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
Creator:	Chris Morley 301 Old Ballston Ave., Ballston Spa, New York, 12020
Title:	Toy (4) – Wooden, Mechanical
Dates:	1997
Quantity:	4 items
Identification:	Folk Art

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Chris Morley has been making toys almost all his life. Raised during the Depression when money was scarce, so he learned to make his own toys. When he was ten, Chris went to work for the D&H Railroad as a dispatch messenger in Ballston Spa. Between his deliveries he'd spend time with Mr. Johnson, a fireman at the cold storage who introduced him to whittling.

"He was of Swedish extraction and a nice man, and he used to whittle. And he'd whittle me toys. And he'd whittle me chains. Anything of wood, he could handle. After I hung around off and on over there about a year, he gave me a nice jack knife and started me whittling. Well, we used to take some of the broken apple crates (they're about, maybe, a half inch thick, the boards), and I'd whittle a Dutch boy out of one, in silhouette. Then I made the keys of the town. And I started whittling other thing just for fun and my own amusement."

Later in life when Chris retired from skilled labor in blasting, drilling and concrete, he set up a woodworking shop, and volunteered at Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa. In 1989, Chris Morley was a participant in the Folklife Center children's workshop series, Growing Up in the North Country, teaching children how to make climbing toys.

INDEX TERMS

Topics:	Toys, wooden Toys, mechanical Folk Art
Places:	Ballston Spa, Saratoga, New York

Important People: Morley, Chris

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Toy (4) – Wooden, Mechanical
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Made and donated 1997.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, 2019

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

4 homemade toys, made of wood and string, and painted:

1. twirling man
2. dancing man
3. little rope climber,
4. large rope climber