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## Club-A-Rama Week 51:

## **SKULL**

SEARS ROEBUCK

c1960



The **SKULL** is probably the second-oldest moldset made for the MOLD-A-RAMA. In fact, it might even pre-date the moldsets used at the 1962 Seattle World's Fair. I say that based on the existence of one skull moldset that looks prehistoric as compared to the rest (shown below):





IMPORTANT UPDATE: As shown in the images above, there is a SKULL moldset that looks rather prehistoric as compared to just about all other moldsets. By appearances and memory of Kip Miller, the SKULL moldset MAY be from as early as 1960 - which is two years BEFORE Mold-A-Rama was introduced to the world at the 1962 Seattle World's Fair. If this is true, the SKULL moldset is dated to the years that the Mold-A-Rama machine was being DEVELOPED into the coin operated wonder we all now know and love! Kip Miller (J.H. Miller's nephew) posted this in response to this week's SKULL:

"Is this from about 1960? I remember Tike (JH Miller) and Shirley (Mrs. JH Miller) coming from Santa Monica to Scottsdale for a visit and Tike brought me a skull. The first thing I did was smell it because I always had a great fondness for the smell of the dinosaurs, etc. But something had changed in the formula because the skull didn't smell like the earlier toys; it had a stinky smell to it that I've always remembered because it was such a shock."





As is the case for many of the early figures made by Mold-A-Rama, the skull too has roots in the J.H. Miller Manufacturing Co. Note the advertisement for PLASTER Skulls from JH MILLER (right) dating from as early as August 1946!



Miller's Halloween figures, showing the two different-sized witches, pumpkins, and the very rare bobbing head ghost skeleton. In mint the large pumpkin is \$50, the small \$35; the large witch \$60, the small \$45 and the skeleton \$75.

JH MILLER even made a "bobbing head ghost SKELETON" - apparently very rare (as if MANY of the early JH MILLER and Mold-A-Rama figures aren't very rare too!)



The audio this week comes from one of the super-rare original AUDIO tapes presumably used circa 1962. ALL machines came from the factory wired for use with a tape player - though few original tapes survive, and no original tape player has ever been located. The audio such as that which is playing here was actually randomly played as an 'attract' mode, meaning that it played when the machine WASN'T operating to attract a passerby. Some machines also included a second track of audio for a 2-track player that played space sounds during operation of the machine. Pretty cool actually. Both single track 'attract mode' only tapes, and 2-track tapes, were made, inferring that some tape players were single track and others 2-track.



I believe that the **SKULL** was first used at SEARS ROEBUCK because one of the audio tapes (above, left) is labeled "MOLD-A-RAMA, SKULL: SEARS ROEBUCK"! Also, a little trivia: there is no second 'space sounds' track on the SEARS ROEBUCK tape! Even more trivia: one of the three segments on audio on the SEARS ROEBUCK skull tape is voiced by a woman! Unfortunately, the audio quality of the SEARS ROEBUCK tape is rather poor.



Disclaimers: The color and/or exact condition of the MOLD you get in the CLUB-A-RAMA may or may not be as shown. Not for children under 3.

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If YOU would like to own this very moldset (and perhaps even include a fully operating MOLDVILLE machine to go with it) so you can reissue your own souvenirs from 50 years ago, please email MoldvilleMachine@gmail.com TODAY - before someone else beats you to it!

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