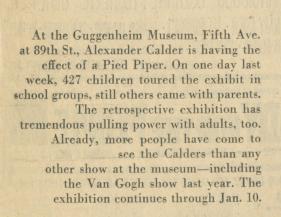
A Circus to Contemplate

This is the best holiday season in years for grandmothers, stand-in aunts and anybody else trying to find amusement in the city for children just out of school. It's swell for kids, too. The reasons are two new museum shows: The Calder Retrospective at the Guggenheim, and "Amusements" at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts. Both exhibitions run through the holidays. At the Guggenheim, there are marvelous mobiles to watch, sometimes to touch and there are stabiles to walk through, a circus to contemplate. At the Museum of Contemporary Crafts, a tower to make music with, peepholes to look through, hobby horses to rock on, and even a rug to play hopscotch on. Both provide a field day for children, not to mention thier elders.





Herald Tribune photos by JILL KREMENTZ







"Amusements," is amusing. The show at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts, 29 W. 53d St., through Jan. 17 is full of surprises and treats. Looking through peepholes, top left, reveals dolls and sculpture. Dropping marbles into a tall multicolor tower by Charles Eames, above, makes music to delight the young almost as much as their mothers.