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**Contact:** Beth Glover or  
Diane Carnevale Jones  
Professional Marketing  
616.949.9104  
ba.glover@sbcglobal.net

## **Swiss Toymaker, Kurt Naef Passes Away at 80**

*Woodstock Chimes Owner Remembers and Praises His Colleague and Friend*

In late 2006, Swiss Toymaker Kurt Naef died at the 80 after a long illness. Naef was influential in the specialty toy industry, designing wooden toys of unrivaled quality from the 1950s until his death. For more than half a century, he stayed true to his mission to keep “play” in the toys he designed, despite the ever-increasing competition from copies and fads.

"I had the honor of knowing and working with Kurt for almost twenty years," shares Garry Kvistad, owner and founder of Woodstock Chimes, who says that Naef was an influential force early on in his own company. "Besides inspiring children around the world with his beautifully built, visually superb and totally engaging products, he was a unique businessman during an era when toy product development was often driven exclusively by profit consideration. His constant struggle between economic and creative interests showed others, by example, that it is, in fact, possible to do the right thing and make a business of it. After our introduction of the Chimalong, Kurt inspired me to add more quality instruments to the Woodstock Music Collection for kids and to constantly improve our line of musical gifts as well"

A recently published book of the life of Kurt Naef, *The Toymaker*, tells his story magnificently. It is available from Birkhauser, Basel, Switzerland ([www.birkhauser.ch](http://www.birkhauser.ch)). Information about Naef Spiele, AG can be found at [www.naefspiele.ch](http://www.naefspiele.ch).

For media inquiries, please contact Professional Marketing at 616.949.9104 or [info@PRcollect.com](mailto:info@PRcollect.com).

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