

Christmas gift ideas fill up Santa's sleigh

Early shopping offers gift-giver biggest choices

By SUSAN ZUCKER

He's a master of his craft... the happiest, jolliest, most generous man of the year! He's Santa Claus, back again with an important Christmas message for us all: kindness, brotherhood and love.

He'll be making the "chimney scene" with gifts in his pouch and goodwill in his heart, and so we celebrate this season following Santa's example, by giving gifts to our close friends and our loved ones.

It's a good feeling inside to give presents and keep alive the spirit of the holiday, and shopping for the right gift for someone close should be an enjoyable task. So Santa says, shop early. Start now to organize your gift list before the Christmas rush turns this happy assignment into a weary and hectic chore.

There's less time

In 1974 there's one week less than last year between Thanksgiving and Christmas (that means less shopping days) — something to keep in mind when mailing greeting cards, as well as doing Christmas shopping. It might even be best to begin a holiday list before Thanksgiving.

When making up a list, keep everyone in mind. Even just an acquaintance usually merits a Yuletide thought, whether it be a greeting card, or a box of candy. The size of the gift or the price can take a second place to the thought behind the gift.

Those little gifts

When shopping for the season, sometimes it's wise to buy a lot of little "token" gifts. These are the inexpensive things that people appreciate and enjoy. Just another way of saying "Merry Christmas and thanks," to teachers, milkmen, and others. And you can give many little gifts along with the big presents to the family members, too.

It's also smart to take advantage of a store's Christmas ideas. Check out newspapers, magazines and department store windows for special items advertised. They just might come up with a solution for the "man-who-has-everything" problem.

A gift should be a personal matter, that is, a part

of yourself goes with the thought. The special choice should suit each individual. It's up to you to put your own homespun touches to the holiday.

Stores and shops come up with so many good gifting ideas that a wise person knows how to use them to advantage and give them homemade touches with a warm, old-fashioned accent. For example, instead of buying the children only the latest toys on the market, why not go to the hobby department and pick out a selection of do-it-yourself kits. The fun and accomplishment of making it yourself adds a personal feeling to holiday giving.

Use your imagination

A little imagination put towards each present can make the ordinary seem outstanding. Instead of the usual wrapping paper, why not sprinkle in some different fabrics and materials? For your teenager, wrap those smaller gifts in faded denim material, which can be used for patching jeans or making little projects.

Put a little more of the Christmas spirit in everything you do this holiday by picking up Yuletide ideas from your surroundings. Look to the Christmas suggestions that you find in community functions, school pageants, religious activities and Christmas displays or exhibits. Then use your creative talents and natural resourcefulness to make Christmastime a special occasion for the whole family.

Just remember to shop early, and begin thinking about your own gifting ideas to work on for the big day. The spirit and excitement of Christmas is far from lost or forgotten. It's there for us to enjoy, if we know how to find it.



THE TWINKLE IN SANTA'S EYE might have been put there by the thought of Grandma playing a love game. Holiday hilarity and happy times all year long can be relived with home movies. Photo courtesy Eastman Kodak.

The beauty of a fresh tree basic

This Christmas, about 35 million evergreen trees will be taken home for the holidays.

Once there, some will be graced with traditional candles and angels, others laced with sparkling tinsel and twinkling lights. Whatever the decor, its success will largely depend on the basic beauty of the tree.

The American Forest Institute notes that there are different kinds of Christmas trees from which to choose. One may suit your decorative tastes more than another:

Balsam fir — one of the most popular, with a pungent fragrance and clusters of long needles that stay fresh a long time.

Scotch pine — has full branches and clusters of long needles that give a soft appearance.

Douglas fir — an elegant-looking tree with soft, spiraling needles that are themselves decorative.

Red pine — has clusters of long shiny needles, a pleasant fragrance, and spreading branches with turned-up ends from which to hang ornaments.

Blue spruce — usually harder to find and more expensive than other types, but one of the most beautiful. Noted for its symmetrical shape, dense needles and unusual silver blue color.



Red pine

Christmas trees take from 8 to 12 years to mature. Some Christmas trees come from managed forests and are removed in thinning operations undertaken to allow remaining trees to grow faster.

AFI points out that since most Christmas trees are specifically raised for that purpose, it is incorrect to think of their use as forest depletion. Trees are renewable, AFI notes, and enough can be grown on properly-managed woodlands to meet the country's varying needs.

Use of fresh trees for Christmas is environmentally sound for another reason, says AFI. Trees use only solar energy to grow. But manufacturing artificial trees from plastic or aluminum requires large amounts of energy resources such as oil and electricity.

Holiday begins on festive note when St. Nick brings music-makers and melody to small fry

Music is one of the ingredients which make up a festive holiday season. And the fun is multiplied if every member of the family can join in the caroling or music making.

While young children are not quite ready for full size instruments, music stores carry dozens of items suitable for the moppet set.

Instruments "ideal"
Small, and relatively inexpensive, there are many true instruments that will add to a youngster's fun and understanding of music. And, they are ideal stocking stuffers.

The American Music Conference, a not-for-profit education and research association, recommends that parents select true, scaled-down instruments rather than toys for their offspring. Real instruments will help a child develop concepts of rhythm and melody, an

"ear" for correct tones as well as physical coordination and proper breathing which will be helpful when the youngster begins instrumental study.

Excellent beginning instruments for the very young child, says the AMC, are rhythm sticks, claves or triangles which cost under \$1.

Flute-like recorders
The recorder is another instrument recommended for parents to consider. A member of the flute family, the recorder comes in plastic or wood and in a variety of sizes for prices from \$2 to about \$10. It can be played by children

4 years of age and up.

Harmonica models
The harmonica is everyone's favorite instrument and can cost as much as \$50. These models are for more skilled musicians, especially adults or teens

who are jazz or folk enthusiasts. For the younger set, however, there are excellent beginner models

For the younger brother or sister (3-4 years of age), the tonette is ideal.

Christmas Greetings

... to our many friends and customers.
May your Christmas be merry and bright!

HOWARD T. H. BRIGGS DON
UPHOLSTERING
R.R. 2 — Georgetown — 877-9312
(STEWARTTOWN)

Greetings

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HARVEY & BETTY CLARE
BILL BULLIVANT

HOLIDAY Greetings

May the true meaning of the season come alive in your heart with joy!

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May your Christmas be merry and bright!

Dog n Suds
877-7121

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Heart-warming gifts for him or her



YOUR GIFTS WILL BE ESPECIALLY WELCOMED if they include hand-held dryers, General Electric's "Zoom Plus" dryer/detangler, at left, and "Zoom 'n Groom" power dryer, at right. The dryer/detangler is the first of its kind which gets tangles out during a wet comb-out, and then provides three drying attachments for personalized styling. Both "Zoom Plus" and "Zoom 'n Groom" provide fast drying, a must with today's young crowd. Presents like these dryers will be big hits on Christmas morning.

JOYOUS NOEL

May your holiday be bright with the glow of friendship!

Jim's Service Centre
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451-0571

Come, let us adore Him!

Once again, hearts are lifted in hope and joy, renewed by the message of Christmas. Let us be glad!

Georgetown Decorating Centre
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It is with a great deal of sentiment and gratitude that we wish our friends the best!

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