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## Holiday packages make great gifts

By VINCENT EGAN Travel Columnist -

Gift-giving time is quickly approaching. If there's a frequent traveller on your gift list, you will find that the choices are numerous and the price range is almost unlimited.

Feeling lavish? You could choose to give a package holiday. In some families, the siblings jointly present an inclusive winter- holiday - Florida in January, for instance - to their parents.

At the other end of the scale, an up-to-date guidebook would fill the bill, if you happen to know what destination the lucky recipient is planning to visit next.

A passport case, which can double as a wallet in countries with oversized bank notes, is almost indispendable. For a few dollars extra, it can be embossed with the holder's name.

A fundamental principle, in choosing gifts for the traveller, is to look for items that serve two or more purposes, and for articles that take up a minimum of luggage space yet provide a max-

By DONNA McCLURE

Herald Special

Why Glasgow? Why Not?

Glasgow recently, and the

general response to my choice of

a place to visit was: 'Yuk! Why

Glasgow?' Well, everyone is en-

titled to his or her opinion but I

have found that being open-

minded has its own rewards. I ad-

mit that Glasgow has never been

a mecca for tourists and is usual-

ly compared to Edinburgh which,

since the mid-eighteenth century

has been the cultural capital of

Scotland; however, things do

change. 1990 has been designated

the 'Year of Culture' as Glasgow

celebrates its 800th birthday and

the city appears to be having a re-

I found there was an informal,

friendly atmosphere in the city

which was both refreshing and

relaxing. There is something

special about a Glasgow crowd

that a Canadian can identify

with. Perhaps it comes from a

common history of struggling to

survive geographical and

To experience the flavor of

Glasgow, you must really see it

'on foot,' In a city roughly the size

of London, Ontario, walking of-

fers the best opportunity to see

the wonderful Georgian and Vic-

torian structures that have sur-

vived along its trec-lined streets,

hear the beautiful Glaswegian

Scots and discover the intimate

tea rooms, a satisfying alter-

native to the North American fast

A good place to begin a walk is

in the west end at the University

of Glasgow, founded in 1451.

Within the massive, granite

quadrangle of the university is

the Hunterian Museum which has

an outstanding geological and ar-

Across the venue, in the

Hunterian Art Gallery, one can

see a large number of paintings

chaeological collection.

food custom.

economic disadvantages.

birth.

I returned from a holiday in



Vince Egan Travel

imum of utility.

**MULTIPLE USES** 

A calculator, for example is fine. But much better is one with multiple functions - such as alarm clock, stop watch, calendar and metric converter.

Sure to be welcomed is an emergency raincoat or poncho of some quick-drying material that folds down neatly and can be taken along conveniently on sightseeing trips.

But if plastic rainwear might be regarded as too unfashionable,

Why Glasgow?—Why not?

Nouveau designs of Glasgow's

should not be missed since they

represent the uniqueness of his

Adjacent to the university is

Hilhead, a rather Bohemian

neighborhood crossed by Byers

Road which leads to the Royal

Botanical Gardens with its

greenhouses, shrubs, trees and

Byers Road intersects Great

Western Road which leads

through constantly changing

neighborhoods with shops,

restaurants and boutiques. Along

Great Western to Sauchiehall

Street is a pleasant walk and a

side trip to the Mitchell Library

to see the Robert Burns'

Sauchiehall Street leads to

Buchanan Street and the city cen-

tre. Glasgow Cathedral, St.

George Square, the business and

financial centre, Strathclyde

University and the Tourist In-

formation Office can be found

close by. Like many European

cities, Glasgow has historial

structures, narrow, inter-

connected streets that make

sight-seeing and browsing ir-

Of the more than 35 museums

in Glasgow, there are two which I

recommend. The Burrell Collec-

tion is housed in a specially

designed award winning building

and surrounded by 350 acres of

parkland. It's collection of

tapestries includes exquisite ex-

amples of Flemish, German and

Dutch. The Egyptian and Ming

Dynasty collections are

memorable. Public transporta-

tion is needed since this gallery is

located close to the periphery of

The Museum of Transport

located closest to Glasgow

University in Kelvingrove Park

is fascinating for visitors of all

ages. It's displays of horse drawn

carriages, trains, ships and cars

trace the history of Glasgow and

give one a feel for the social and

resistible.

Glasgow.

manuscripts is worthwhile.

plants including a herb garden.

Charles

style.

Rennie Mackintosh

an alternative would-be a miniumbrealla. When folded down, it fits easily into a briefcase or a

Luggage is an always-useful gift. Choose between hard-sided (strong but heavy) and soft-sided (lighter, more vulnerable), and between suitcase-type and hangup garment bag.

A less expensive accessory would be a collapsible luggage cart. These can be a much appreciated convenience at big airports - as well as a bit of a nuisance to carry when not in use.

A fold-down, zip-up bag will take up an insignificant amount of luggage space, but will prove invaluable on the homeward journey, when extra carrying capacity is needed for the "loot" acquired on the trip.

FOR SAFE TRAVEL With safety and security an increasing concern among travellers, the familiar moneybelt could be an ideal gift. They are normally worn around the waist, although other designs are also available.

working activities of the com-

munity of Glasgow through the

As I walked in Glasgow, I found

that I wanted to study the skyline

with its towering church spires

and varied rooftops that can be

viewed from bridges and pro-

the city scape to the extent found

in North America. Planners and

developers have learned from ex-

perience that the high density liv-

ing is not an acceptable alter-

native to the tenements; it simply

replaces one set of problems with

dustrial city are over but it now

faces the challenge of becoming a

great post-industrial city. Its uni-

que character formed by its

history made more formidable by

the adversites, provides the

Culture, Glaswegians have decid-

ed to let creativity flourish. With

the tenacity of the Scots, they

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In this European City of

Glasgow's days as a great in-

High rises have not intruded on

minences around the city.

years.

another.

determiner.

Help

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A portable smoke-detector is a reassuring item for the traveller staying in strange surroundings. So, too, is a travel-size first-aid kit with emergency supplies such as iodine and stick-on bandages.

batteries, is another essential around darkened hotel rooms, to under the bed, or to brighten night-time streets. A larger version, costing about \$20, attaches

Binoculars are a necessity for viewing glaciers on an Alaska cruise, or wildlife on an African safari. The small, fold-down type is useful for theatre evenings as

Even people who never take pictures will usually want to capture their big trip in film. Socalled "automatic everything" cameras are ideal for such travellers, and are close to being fool-proof.

If none of these gift ideas has quite hit the target, here are

ted with a miniature butane torch, compass on a wrist strap, thermometer and multi-purpose

- A boxed set of small packets of laundry detergent, moistened towels, stain remover, etc.

an inflatable coathanger, for drying laundry overnight in hotel bathrooms.

- Thomson News Service.

A flashlight, with fresh long-life travel item. Even a small one will

help travellers to find their way look for items that have fallen to the top of a car to serve as an emergency blinker.

well.

OTHER IDEAS

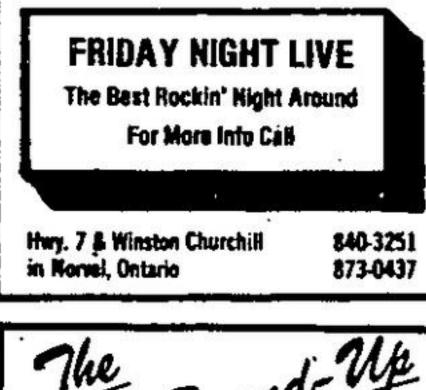
some other possibilities: - A wilderness survival kit, fit-

survival tool. - A tool kit for emergency repairs, with recessed spaces for screwdrivers, pliers, hammer,

chisel and so on.

An elasticized clothesline or

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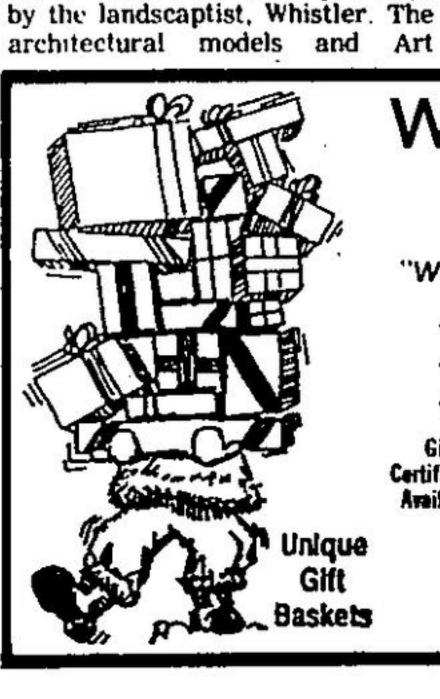
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