Remembering

And now, as I walk into my living room, and pull the curtains back to let in the full wonder of the heavily laden trees and the blue-white expanse of fields beyond, and hear the carols tinkling on the radio, and see the evening's soft light, and the little ribbons of golden-glow car lights

coming slowly down the hill, two by two, as the workers go home along the country road, my heart is full.

Spicy fragrances fill the air, the tree behind my chair is almost dancing. Beautiful cards are strung across the room, and I take them down to read again slowly and

carefully, the special messages of the senders. What a wonderful thing it is to let our hearts and minds slip softly into the many wonderful memories of Christmases past. A symphony of Love.

I remember. I remember that my Dad had the most wonderful

Christmas cards picked on an individual basis

Variety trademark today's greeting card business. especially when it's Christmas season. Special cards for special folks and nothing too trendy seems to be the keynote all around.

"Counter cards, the kind you pick individually," says Howard McGirr, Chairman of Public Relations for the Gift packaging and Greeting Card Association, "have become enormously important, while once boxed cards were almost the total business."

All members of the Association agree that this represents a major shift in the industry of the last few years. "The individualized approach to choosing greeting cards is most important now" says William McKay, an Association director. According to Rich Cairns, President of the Association, about 30 per cent of the cards each year are new, adding to the variety and catering to individual tastes. "We never try to lead tastes," says Howard McGirr, "but rather reflect tastes of a broad cross section of consumers." Special cards designated for members of

& Staff

Season s

the family and loved ones, rank particularly high this candles and Nativity scenes. year as they tend towards Little creatures, such as more elaborate, large-size squirrels, birds, mice and varieties. Cards to Mother, kittens are abundant, ex-Wife and Sweetheart are pressing the soft and caring especially popular in their plastic coverings or "acetate framables" which are individually boxed.

In religious themes, "The Praying Hands" are still a deeply loved symbol of

Instructions Go With Useful Gifts

If you give a small appliance, a camera, even clothing to a friend or relative for Christmas - be sure you include the manufacturer's directions or instruction tags and booklets that came with the purchase.

clothing manufacturers should be cards. For McGirr, who sends followed for garment protection lots of cards himself it's a and longer wear. Appliances wonderful feast for feelings, operated and maintained ac- as nothing beats the pastime cording to manufacturer's di- of remembering dear friends rection will give longer, trouble- and free operation.

Fabric tags or booklets tell fiber content and proper laundering and dry cleaning procedures. For most electronic equipment, there are important do's and don'ts essential to operation and maintenance.

Christmas, as are the Bible, sentiments that go with the season. And it isn't Christmas for Canadians without snow scenes, glowing hearths, poinsettias, bells, holly wreaths and snowmen. Santa is frequently pictured in muted reds and greens with an antique touch of days gone by. With all that silver and gold foil, coloured paper stock, special die-cutting and embossing, many cards require hand finishing, lending the industry a homespun flavour. "It's still a very personal business," says Howard McGirr. There is still Care instructions provided by time left to go out and choose loved ones. Canadians seem to agree. Approximately 250 million Christmas cards were sent last year in Canada, mail troubles or no. A stamp this

season for a sealed envelope

(Continued from Page G7)

trees! They were always covered with the gayest lights that bubbled and reflected and twinkled and were frosted and danced. Dad's whole tree danced, if it were possible! He even hung loud speakers outside so everyone else could enjoy the music, (but some even complained of that!) My Dad gave me my first Speedball pen, and he and my new Stepmother gave me a desk which my own son now uses. We always had the best-stuffed stockings you could ever imagine, and my father wasn't afraid to let "Santa" have a chance to distribute all the love he could! My Mother's pies were beyond excellence, ohhh, but she was the world's best cook. and our Aunts and Uncles have consistently spoiled us with goodness and kindness and "flare".

And the faithful friends, who never stopped believing the best of us, who have loved us when we could not love ourselves. Who helped us, when we could not help ourselves. . .

And the children. How grateful I am for them! Their enduring kindness and hopefulness in a world become so sordid and corrupt. How I long for them to know "true love"... the kind that comes, from God again, this Christmas Day.

I too, keep all these things. . . and ponder them in my heart.



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