

Sew your holiday gift giving list

By Robbie Fanning

All over Canada, millions of women are using their sewing machines as creative tools. It makes sense that today's woman, busier than ever and attuned to the driving rhythms and pace of today's society, would seek relaxation in a way that combines a traditional love for fabric texture and color with the speed and efficiency of a modern machine.

Paradoxically, these are the same women who often say, "Oh no, I don't sew." They mean that they don't make all the garments for themselves and their families.

But they do make quilts, quilted

wall-hangings, placemats, machine-embroidered gifts and machine-appliqued clothes for their friends, family and children.

To support this interest and enthusiasm, Chilton Book Company has developed a line of books entitled The Creative Machine Arts Series. One of these, or all of these new titles, may be just right for someone special on your holiday gift list. They will also be valuable addition to your own sewing reference library.

Every mother wants her children to look their best. But how we hate to spend a small fortune on a dress or jacket that will be outgrown in, more than likely, record time. Pizzazz for Pennies: Designer Clothes for Children, by award-winning designer Barb Forman, shows how

you can give a custom touch to inexpensive clothes by adding easy machine applique. Using the ideas and patterns in Barb's book you'll get the best of the boutiques on a bread-and-butter budget.

Or how about stepping back a stage in life - there's The Expectant Mother's Wardrobe Planner by Rebecca Dumlao. Subtitled "A Fashion Workbook to Organize Today's Mother-To-Be," it covers just about everything - sewing and shopping for yourself, preparing the baby's layette and nursery, and dealing with all of the physical and emotional changes that take place during your pregnancy and nursing months.

Finally, there is The Complete Book of Machine Embroidery, which I wrote with my husband,

Tony. The concept of the series began to take shape when I spoke with Chilton about publishing a book that would show how to use any machine to create color and texture on fabric - fast.

We begin with the basic information on transferring design, and progress through the various techniques - from a simple straight stitch and zig-zag to free machine embroidery and beyond.

Is it hard to do? No. Do you need a fancy machine that does 400 different stitches and walks the dog? Absolutely not. Any machine

- even grandma's old treadle - can make beautiful embroidery.

So here are three ideas that will help you "sew up" any gift-giving dilemmas this holiday season. And the details: Pizzazz for Pennies, 160 pages plus eight pages of full color, \$12.95; The Expectant Mother's Wardrobe Planner, 160 pages, \$10.95; and The Complete Book of Machine Embroidery, 320 pages plus 12 pages of color, \$16.95.

Look for them at your favorite book, fabric or craft stores, nationwide.

Home for the holidays

By Ken Lusk

There aren't many things that can beat going home for the holidays.

Unfortunately, a lot of people cannot make it home for Christmas every year, maybe because of distance or money, and that makes the times they do all that more special.

Some families may be so large, and spread across so many miles, that they may only get to see certain relatives every couple of years.

So for those who are lucky enough to gather together with their families around the tree, the fireplace or the dining room table, Christmas is one time of the year that they will treasure for the next 11 months and for the rest of their lives.

Those people who have left their teens behind can reminisce about Christmases past - when they looked up at their parents and thanked them for all the neat gifts - and who may now have children of their own who will soon be thanking them.

And then there are those people who might not have anyone at all, and will be alone this Christmas.

They should know that the doors of this community are open for them.

There's a tradition that a candle burning in the window is an open invitation of which cannot be denied.

Candles are not necessary here - the invitation extends all year.

No one can refute that Christmas creates memories that outlast the longest of separations.

All it takes is some time to remember, to re-live. Perhaps a look, a smile, a hug and a kiss to bridge the gap between time and distance - between memories.

During the Christmas season people will be thankful that they are with their loved ones; pray that the young ones will have good lives; take time to remember friends and relatives who are no longer of this earth; and think of the man who we honor with this holiday. Merry Christmas.



HAPPY HOLIDAY

At the top of our menu, special servings of good cheer, "seasoned" with our very best wishes for the best Christmas ever!

DIANE'S PLACE

GREETINGS

A Merry Christmas to all our cycling friends. We wish them miles of long, healthy, fun-filled days ahead!

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In the spirit of Christmas joy, it is our pleasure to say "thank you" for your very valued patronage.

TERRACE HAIR CARE
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Joy To All

May friendships, old and new, come together at Christmas as we happily thank our many customers who are also dear friends.

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