

Look to books for nifty, thrifty gift ideas

While you're at the gallery's Beyond Craft sale don't forget to check out some of the library books.

Some of these books make it awfully easy to make your own Christmas gifts.

For sewers, there's The Big Book of Soft Toys, or Beginner's Craft Series: Doll Making. If you like wood working there's Wooden Toys and Games, and Making Whirligigs and Other Wind Toys.

A Scented Christmas is an annual favourite as are the many books about everyone's favourite - food! Christmas goodies galore in Better Homes and Gardens Treasury of Christmas Crafts and Foods, or, Christmas with a Country Flavour.

There are books for the tree (on the tree as well as ideas for under the tree).

There are even books to help with the wrapping. How to Giftwrap, and, Gift Wrapping: Creative Ideas from Japan will add a special look to the presents.

You can definitely get the children involved with books such as

Christmas Crafts, The Golden Book of Crafts and Hobbies, and Fun With Nature Crafts.

Of course, it may be that a handmade Christmas is not your style. Then you might like to consult The Toy Report 1998 to make sure you have the perfect gift idea for the children you know.

For fun, check in the vertical

LIBRARY NEWS

file under the heading "Consumer Education" and try the Credit Quiz. There a 10 true or false questions. For example, "It's a good idea to buy all your little items on credit. More expensive

items cost too much." Or, "It's normal to spend 50 per cent of your net earnings on credit payments."

In some ways this is a scary quiz, but it's short and very informative, and if worse comes to worse, you might like to check out some of the above mentioned books.

Harvest your own tree

Enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas at Taylor Tree Farms.

Take a step back in time and bring the whole family on a Christmas tree expedition.

Families are invited to harvest their own spruce or pine tree from the farm's 140 acres of top quality trees.

Taylor Tree Farms also offers a variety of seasonal activities. You can enjoy tours in a horse-drawn wagon, take a tractor ride, visit Santa who will be on hand with candy canes for the children.

There will also be a bonfire with music, refreshments and prizes.

If you don't want to cut your own, the farm has a selection of freshly cut balsam and Fraser fir trees for sale in its Christmas market.

Once you've picked the perfect Christmas tree, the farm offers free tree shaking, baling and disposal bags. The parking is free as well.

Company functions can also be booked at the farms.

Taylor Tree Farms is on 2nd Concession, north of Bloomington Rd. It is open Friday and weekends from 9 to dusk starting Nov. 29. For details call 640-1325, or access information at www.christmastrees.on.ca/taylor-treefarm.html.

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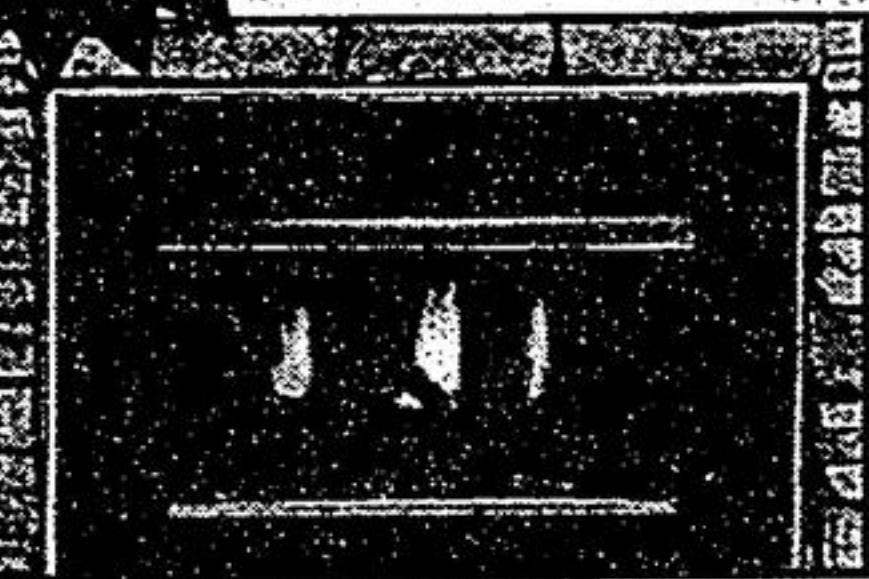
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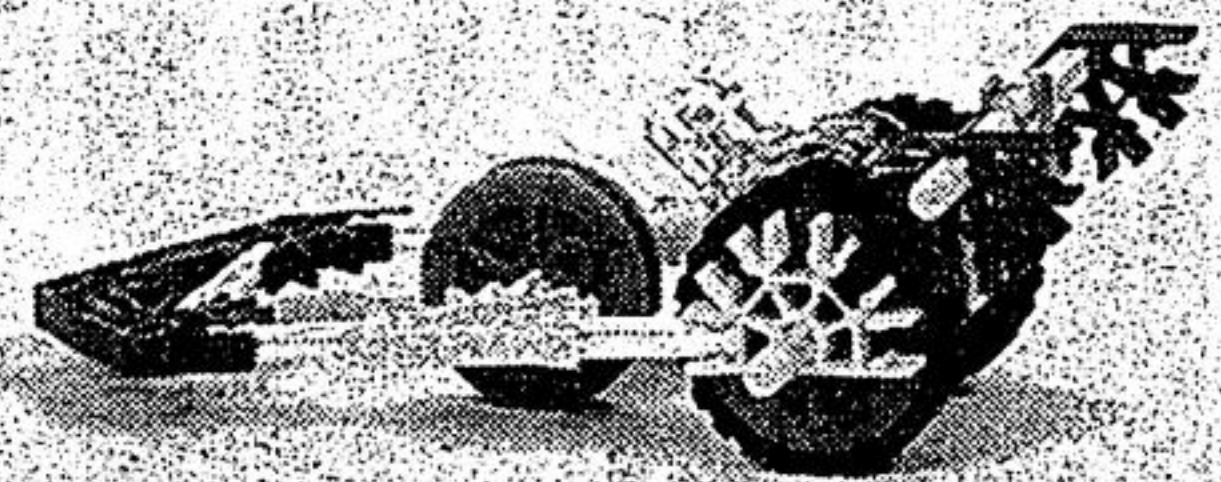
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