

# Thumb your nose at

Holiday gift time can produce trauma in the hearts of those who exist on modest budgets and happen to have been born with an excessive number of thumbs.

Watching the super-talented busily working with balls of yarn or rope, making mittens and rugs and macrame pot holders for friends is enough to send the multi-thumbed to the brink of despair, or at least, produce a lasting complex.

It is at this point, or just before, that you have to sit down, paper and pencil in hand, and carefully assess your skills—some of which, at first thought, may seem unlikely to fit in a gift package.

If all your thumbs are green, the solution is ready-made. There hardly exists a single person today who wouldn't welcome a plant under the tree—something you grew yourself (or at least helped and nurtured).

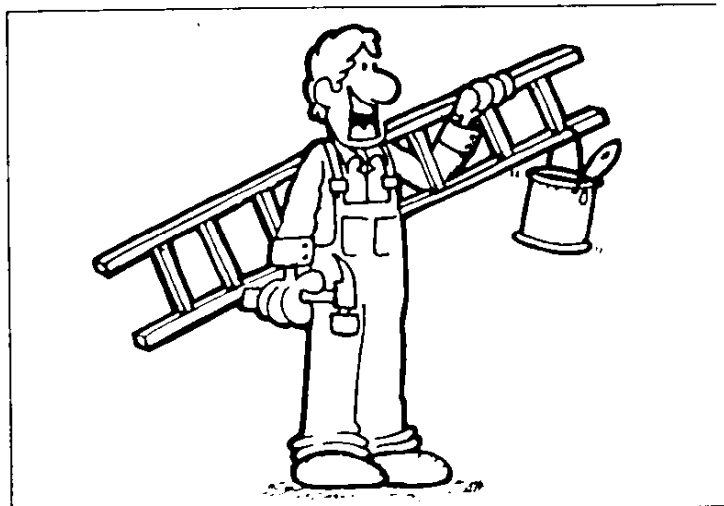
If you make great, even reasonably good, fudge or other sweet—well, there's another natural. If your fudge is as flimsy as your

macrame, consider buying a batch of dates, dropping a blanched almond in each and rolling them in granulated sugar. No cooking required, just two simple steps and they are a tasty holiday treat which can be given in a box lined with waxed paper.

If the only thing you feel secure making in the kitchen is sandwiches, and you know how to pop the top of a beer can and brew coffee, you have another gift possibility. How about an IOU to your favorite football fan for refreshments for him or her and friends while they watch the Rose Bowl game?

Before leaving the idea of IOUs, the guy who is all thumbs until he has a pair of pliers, hammer and screwdriver in hand may want to offer his favorite gal a couple of hours of handyman time on light switches, lamps that don't work and brackets that are falling off the wall. No reason in this liberal era that the roles couldn't be reversed.

An IOU for car cleaning, inside and out, is an almost certain par-



ent pleaser from the family young people who drive the car.

If you and your friends like to eat, and who doesn't, consider collecting a few excellent recipes

from friends to pass around.

You may have several of your own which you want to share. Sometimes at bazaars featuring ethnic specialties, recipes are

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