

These presents mind your own budget

Those dreams of perfect Christmas presents need not turn into the new year's nightmares of budget-busting bills.

With a little bit of imagination, the thrifty but well-meaning Christmas shopper can fill the empty space under the tree for less than \$10 per present.

Stocking stuffers and presents which show you're thinking about friends and relatives on Christmas are available by taking a stroll through downtown Farmington.

For persons who need to count on a gift, Bolinas Reef in Farmington has a wood and metal-trimmed abacus imported from the People's Republic of China. The wooden beaded instrument which is an early computer comes without instruction booklet for slightly under \$10.

For children and adults less mathematically inclined, there are a few old-fashioned toys available for under \$10.

A wooden car which looks like a hunched over foreign compact race around after a good push on four matching wooden wheels. The wooden gas saver comes priced at under \$5.

For a slightly larger sum, Bolinas Reef carries a wooden acrobat who turns his way down a bar after a firm push on his feet. The old fashioned acrobat is painted blue and red and sports a jaunty red hat.

IF TUMBLING acrobats don't make

your heart leap, try a bit of mystery with a colorful paper mask mounted on a wooden stick. Pretend you're an exotic butterfly, a flower or plant by hiding behind this under \$10 gift.

For children who like surprises and drawing, there's a set of 36 drawings with four colored pens available for \$6. The four pens produce eight different colors and one "magic" pen changes the picture's colors when it's brushed over the completed drawing.

For stocking stuffers there are small slate blackboards like the kind grandma once used in school for \$1.50. For the tiny animal fan, there are cardboard rams and kangaroos to assemble for the same price.

Once Christmas gift giving is done, there remains the pressing question of where to put all the new goodies. Try a wicker basket which can double for a picnic in better weather. The basket is under \$10.

For grown-ups who like a bit of whimsy in their holiday giving, there are wooden clavers from Peru at the store. A larger round laid kerchief and colorful outfit painted on retails for under \$10 with her smaller counterpart priced at under \$3.

Both ladies and their more expensive and larger cousins rattle nicely when they're shook; nice for adults who look

for sophisticated pacifiers.

FOR COLLECTORS there are candles shaped like heads from a Pre-Raphaelite painting in assorted colors for our minimum price.

Fancy food processors are definitely out of the \$10 price range but there are a few kitchen accessories and whimsies available at our minimum price. Put a plant on that kitchen window sill. Pot it in a sheepish looking zebra or elephant in tennis shoes available for under \$10 at That Something Special in downtown Farmington.

For those who like to prep up do-dads on the window sill, there's also a silly little bear wearing a sweat shirt printed with "Hug Me."

For the sentimental there's a stained glass greeting which opens up to let the light shine through for under \$9.

For cooks who are plagued with pots boiling over, bad coffee and unsavory dinners, there's a kitchen witch which claims to guard against these culinary misfortunes. The witch comes riding on a broom ready to land on a kitchen window sill or wall for under \$10. She's available at Bolinas Reef and the Bon Ton Shoppe.

A pretty kitchen doesn't guarantee great food. To help the cooks in the house along the road to good taste, there are a few simple utensils priced at the limit.

A RATTAN CHEESE grater is kind on the pocketbook and the knuckles for \$3. Large salt and pepper shakers are available for \$5.

For the same price ambitiously adventurous cooks can have a hanging sampler of spices which includes curry, coriander, cloves, mace, cardamom, turmeric, mustard, chile, fenugreek, cinnamon and cocoa. All are in powder form.

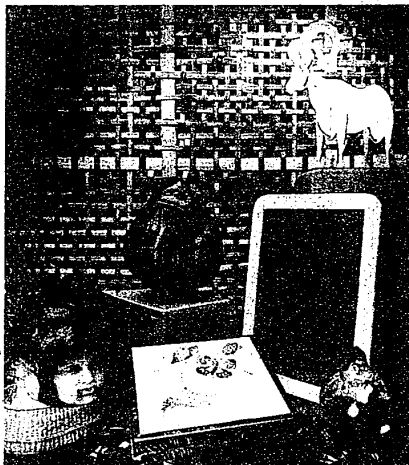
For those who would rather confine their artistry to traditional paper instead of the kitchen, the Art Alcove has Winsor and Newton Ink for \$1.95 a box or for a set of eight for under \$10.

Calligraphy, the art of beautiful writing might be someone's next hobby with a little help from a gift giver. A beginner's set is available for under \$10.

Good old fashioned water colors are priced at under \$6 and come in a large table size or small pocket book style.



Companions like this elephant in tennis shoes, sheepish zebra and huggable teddy bear can brighten up a small corner.



Toys for young and old range from round Peruvian dolls to intricate candles.



Riding into your kitchen, this witch promises luck.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

IT'S THE SEASON when children can be the highlight of someone's day. Take for instance the little entle who approached the owner of the Art Alcove in Farmington the other day. "Can you whistle Jingle Bells?" she asked. "Sure," the owner replied and began to whistle for her. The little miss then began to entertain the entire store as she sang out the words to the seasonal favorite. "Guess she just wanted background music," chuckled the owner. (A star is born. Here's an Angles salute to our singing miss: ☆☆☆☆☆)

SEVEN NORTH FARMINGTON High School students were in the audience of Kelly and Co., the local morning show, recently as a reward for their work on behalf of the school's athletic booster club. The students and a parent from the boosters toured the television studio and set in on the show. They earned it by carrying packages and helping shoppers during Great Scott's booster club donation day at their Thirteen Mile and Orchard Lake Road. The store donated 5 percent of their day's sales to the club.

SPEAKING OF TELEVISION, personalities, Al Ackerman will speak before a meeting of Solo Flight Singers of Temple Beth El, at 8 p.m., Feb. 19, Temple Beth El is at Fourteen Mile and Telegraph. The singles group is open to those over 30-years-old.

SENIORS WHO WANT to ring in the New Year properly can attend a New Year's Eve party at 1 p.m. Dec. 31 in the Gathering Place, Mercy Center, 11 Mile near Middle Bell. The Farmington Senior Adult Band will provide the music and party-goers are invited to provide some of the sweets or an hors d'oeuvre.

DETROIT BIBLE College in Farmington Hills will broadcast from 2-6 p.m. Dec. 27-28 on WMUZ-FM radio a program with a religious theme.

HOWE MILITARY SCHOOL isn't known for its participation in a national toothpaste test along. It's also the school of Cadet William R. Sili, son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Sili, Farmington Hills. The younger Sili has been promoted to Cadet Private First Class in Junior ROTC at Howe. He is a junior at the school.

HILLEL DAY SCHOOL PTO has planned a puppet show for its annual Hanukkah party at 4:45 p.m., Dec. 20. The Red Rug Puppet Theatre will present a special Hanukkah program, "Why the Dragon Stole Mrs. Froglady's Menorah." The puppet theater is a one-woman show by Beth Katz of Lansing. For further information call the school at 851-2394.

THERE ISN'T ANY sign of snow, yet but when there is enough to cross country ski, Angles wants to remind all sports enthusiasts that the Oakland County and Farmington Hills Parks and

Recreation Departments have moved their joint cross country program from last year's site at San Marino Golf Course to Glen Oaks Golf Course on Thirteen Mile near Orchard Lake Road. As with last year's program, there's no charge to use the property but skiers will be charged a fee to rent equipment.

LAST WEEKEND Michigan State Temple Youth (MSTY) raised funds for Cambodian refugees through a 30-hour basketball marathon at the Jewish Community Center on Ten Mile in Oak Park. Their goal was \$5,000 for food and medicine.

SENIORS can have their pictures taken for the Oakland Livingstone senior discount program's identification cards from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Dec. 21 in the Gathering Place, Mercy Center.

ADULTS WHO WANT to finish their high school education can join the Farmington school system's second semester of adult high school on Jan. 28. Classes are conducted during day and evening hours. For further information about the free courses call 474-5233.

FARMINGTON HILLS Parks and Rec is looking for instructors to teach recreational activities and special classes. If you have a particular skill or hobby you would like to teach, call the Parks office at 474-6115 for an employment application.

COACHES ARE needed by Parks and Rec to teach youngsters soccer and basketball. The department has a 24-hour activities line which brings callers up to date on the department's offerings. Dial 474-6149.

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- Delivery — 591-0500
- Classifieds — 591-0900
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Brookfield's Colt available only at Downtown, Northland, Eastland, Westland, Oakland, Pontiac and Flint Hudson's stores.

Nash's Cruiser available at all Hudson's stores.

HUDSON'S
favorite things

...letting the good times roll

The good times—they just seem to happen whenever you're on wheels. Now you can buy those fun-for-everyone roller skates in Hudson's Sporting Goods. Today's skates are the best yet, with comfy shoes or boot tops, sizes that fit both men and women, and quiet urethane wheels. Left: The Colt by Brookfield, with molded vinyl boot, \$4.95. Right: The Cruiser from Nash, with replaceable nylon running shoe, \$9.95. Pick a pair for yourself, another for giving—and let the good times roll.