

Clerks hustle; shoppers bustle



On the day after Thanksgiving, the holiday shopping season loomed ahead just short of 1980's arrival.

There was plenty of time to shop. There was almost an eternity to wrap presents. It was too early to think of a menu for Christmas dinner.

Early in December, it was far too soon to catch the spirit of the holiday. Wait a while for the mall sound systems laden with carols to warm up. Wait a while for the lines around Santa's castle to become so long that they wind their way around the mall — twice.

The second week of December dawned. It hadn't begun to snow yet. The tinsel was newly strewn on snow-free trees in front of public buildings.

Too soon to Christmas shop. Can't get into the spirit of the thing without snow.

The third week arrives like newly trained elves in the workshop — wholly unexpected and wreaking havoc.

Time to do some serious planning. Time to gather the cost sizes and color preferences. Time to think.

But on Christmas Eve, the time to shop has almost past. Presents are needed to fill that empty space under the tree. There are cookies practically demanding to be baked.

Remember last year when we said we would never again be caught up in the bustle and bustle of last minute shopping?

Hmmm. The last ho-ho-ho's on us.



"This is mine" must be the thought on this shopper's mind as she finds her car in the last minute rush. Looking over cards (top left) Helen Kozara takes her cue from the poster advising, "Share the Joy of Christmas." (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the tangle of shoppers stood good old Inside Angle (a-r-a). It has had a great time listening to the comments of busy shoppers in Farmington. Who hasn't said at one time or another "I don't know why I didn't buy my cards sooner. I can't find anything here." Or "You don't need one, we're trying to buy a present for your cousin" (usually said in hot, crowded toy stores to eager small fry after an evening of shopping). Or "I wrote her a six-page letter and that's better than a Christmas card" (ah, love).

AND OF course there are always the following: "What's a microwave?" (said by frazzled aunts and uncles who don't have children of their own). Or "I've been waiting in this line for an hour." Or "My mother-in-law buys her presents all year 'round. She keeps them in her closet until Christmas. She was finished shopping in July." And the immortal lines "price check."

AND IA WANTS to congratulate everyone who had the patience to stand in line at the Farmington post office before buying stamps.

IA WANTS to congratulate the unsung heroes of the season: store clerks, postal carriers, postal workers, hospital workers who don't have a holiday and everyone else who has to work twice as hard in preparation for the holiday.

Angles sends you a nice line of stars: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE FARMINGTON Association for Educational Enrichment, which is concerned with programs for the intellectually gifted child, have a few interesting classes in the works. At Woodcreek Elementary School, the students are being offered seminars in "Tutoristics." At Forest, 20 students are attending a computer class. And at Power Jr. High, Pat Plesad is trying to set up a Junior Tolkien Society. (If you're interested call 477-2390.)

DURING JANUARY the Association for Educational Enrichment will sponsor a display of student work at the Farmington Community Libraries. The works by children in gifted programs will include art, literature, science and math.

SPEAKING OF CHILDREN, students are invited to speak out about television programming aimed at them. The Federal Communications Commission is asking children to write or send a cassette to its Washington D.C. office with an opinion of children's TV. Children can request to be on one of several panels of children who may be asked to testify before the FCC when it begins to study children's programs.

Address your comments or questions to Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20554.

NOON-TIME merry makers crowded Dunleavy's last week, singing up a holiday storm. It's been a while since the old chestnut "I've got a six pence, a jolly, jolly sixpence, I've got a six pence to last me all my life" received an airing.

TO END THOSE post-holiday doldrums, the Farmington Hills Parks and Rec Dept. have a preschool story class starting at different elementary schools in the district in January. Children from 3 to 5 years old are welcome. There is an \$8 fee per participant for eight weeks of the classes which includes singing, stories, games and art projects. Classes will be at Shiawassee Recreation Center (old Shiawassee Elementary School) from 4-5 p.m., Mondays, Jan. 28 to March 24. At Gill Elementary from 8:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Jan. 29 to March 25. At Forest Elementary from 3:15-4:15 p.m., Wednesdays from Jan. 29 to March 26. At Shiawassee Recreation Center, from 4-5 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 30 to March 27. For more information call the Parks and Rec at 474-6115.

CRUISE OUT OF Michigan's winter and into the Caribbean with the Farmington Community Center. The Center is offering a seven-day cruise in the Caribbean locales of Cap-Haitien, San Juan, St. Thomas and Puerto Plata. Departure date is March 22. Vacationers return March 29. Prices range from \$935 to \$1,065 per person, double occupancy. There is a 25 percent per person downpayment required to secure reservations and final payment is due 60 days before departure. Call the center now at 477-8404 for further information.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

To connect with the Farmington Observer use the following numbers:

- Staff — 477-5450
- Delivery — 591-0500
- Classifieds — 591-0900
- Display Ads — 591-2300
- Legal Ads — 591-2300

MAIL IT TO US

To place an item in Angles mail it to us at 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. Become a complete angler. Buy Elbow IA at least one week to include your item. All materials become the property of the Farmington Observer. Photos can't be used.



Silverplate to make you shine at entertaining sale 5.99 to 24.99

Gleaming hostess pieces from Webster Wilcox, priced to save you plenty. Set of four coasters in silverplate and glass, 200 units, * sale 5.99. Silverplate and glass ice bucket and tongs, 250 units, * sale 9.99. Silverplated goblets, wines and champagnes, 750 units, * sale 6.99 each. 15" tray, 150 units, * sale 22.99. Four-part relish, 100 units, * sale 22.99. Chip 'n' dip, 100 units, * sale 24.99. In Silver Gallery.

*Total units available at all Hudson's stores while quantities last.

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