

Surprises

Ridership survey suggested

by RON GARBINSKI

On the road — that's probably the best time to ask that bike enthusiast in your life what he or she would like for Christmas.

Chances are, however, you're not around on the trip or the idea doesn't come up in later conversation. So what do you buy?

That's an easy question considering the assortment of bike-related items on the market today. Clothing, accessories, tools, books, components, shoes, touring equipment — the list goes on and on.

First, forget about buying a new bike for the rider in your life. That should be done by the individual because of the many personal considerations involved. Second, identify what type of riding the person does. Is it commuting, weekend or long-distance touring, regular workouts or just casual rides around the neighborhood.

Once you do this, you narrow your selection. And a visit to the local bike shop will provide you with suggestions on quality equipment.

A COMMUTER has special needs to make a trip safe and convenient.

The rider must be visible to motorists. So one needs a good lighting system, reflective clothing and reflectors on the bike. Carrier racks or packs to hold essentials and leg wraps to keep clothing out of the chain are handy accessories.

Two items that have proven valuable to many commuters — and riders of all levels — are a helmet and tire patch kit. Helmets come in various price ranges and styles to serve different situations. These safety devices — usually less than \$40 — have saved scores of riders from serious injury, especially considering that cars and trucks sometimes are a bicyclist's worst enemy.

FOR THE TOURIST, the list is almost endless. There are catalogs filled with panniers, handlebar bags, repair and tool kits, pumps, water bottles, wool and blend riding jerseys, shorts and warm-ups, tents, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, gloves and shoes.

Find out what your rider already has — and what colors he prefers — and go from there. The more expensive the items are usually the lighter and better made.

Maps and touring routes are valuable to the tourist. Many states, through the local auto club or department of tourism and

transportation, have detailed touring services available.

Other groups, like Bikecentennial, offer maps and touring information to members. Membership in this nationwide organization of bicyclists is \$15 for individuals and well worth the investment. The address is Bikecentennial, P.O. Box 8308, Missoula, Mont. 59807.

WHILE DISCUSSING maps and routes, other great gift ideas are books and magazines. Getting your favorite on the mailing lists of various bike shops and distributors is another worthwhile gift.

A subscription to Bicycling Magazine or American Wheelmen provides hours of reading on what's new in the industry, tours, bike reports, technical tips, riding techniques plus offering ideas on health and fitness and who's doing what in the world of bicycling.

Other books on maintenance, traveling by bike, how to ride and buying guides also are interesting and necessary additions to a rider's bookshelf.

FOR THE casual bike rider the selection is wide open.

Anti-theft devices such as chains and locks, riding gloves, water bottles, odometers, special lights, child carriers, handlebar or seat bags, cushioned handlebar tape and a patch kit are just some of the gift ideas.

Sunglasses, rain gear, car carrier racks for one to four bikes, bike stands, compressor floor pumps and special components and parts are several other items to keep in mind.

The best place to start your hunt for the right gift is with the rider. One way or another, find out what he already has and needs and go from there.

The best place to end your search is at one of the professional bike shops in town. They cater to the whims of bicyclists and have the background to help you make the right selection.

... In keeping with the spirit of 1980



A homey touch

Artist Kyle Ziegler does pen and ink sketches of things people love best — children, pets and homes. This drawing of a home at Main and Rogers in Northville is an example of his work. He works from photos, but wants to see the actual subject at least once before starting. To contact the artist for holiday gift drawings, with or without color, write Ziegler, 2150 Longhorn, West Bloomfield 48033, or call 626-9127. (Photo/Stephen Cantrell)



Forget 'em not

Automotive executive and independent entrepreneur Bill Sturley of Royal Oak has organized a new business catering to the forgetful people of the world.

Surety Reminder Service will mail two week before the actual date eight postcards a year reminding clients of family birthdays, anniversaries and other important times for \$5 a year.

Additional dates beyond the eight will be added for 50 cents each.

Sturley said that these mind stuffers would make excellent stocking stuffers. A form for listing the desired dates will be mailed to each subscriber. Send name, address and \$5 to Surety Reminder Service, 2045 Laurome Dr., Royal Oak 48073.