

Have yourself a thrifty little Christmas

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

About this time of year those merry ho-ho-ho's turn into sighs of oh-oh-oh after a Christmas-shopping foray reveals that Santa's reindeer aren't the only things that soar skyward.

With inflation and unemployment rivaling the Grinch in stealing away holiday cheer, it becomes obvious that shopping within a budget demands more of the buyer than perfecting a method of squeezing past the crowd toward a store counter.

The intrepid shopper with a budget needs to remember that as prices go up, the dimensions of affordable gifts go down.

Under these conditions it's still possible to find a \$10 gift to fill that empty space beneath the tree or give some shape to a stocking hanging on the mantle.

A survey of stores in downtown Farmington revealed these suggestions for \$10 and under items:

- For that spouse who's a louse when

it comes to keeping toothpaste neat, there's a ceramic holder which attaches to the bottom of the tube. It contains a key for winding up the tube instead of squeezing it beyond recognition. The tube holder carries a \$8 price tag at the Bon Ton Shop. The holder can also be used by messy hobbyists for tubes of glue.

- Light up the memo pad, if not the life, of an executive, student or anyone else who needs to jot down little notes with a lighted notepad. The small pad comes encased in plastic which flips open to reveal slots for paper, pens and a tiny flashlight aimed over the paper. It's \$10 at the Bon Ton.

- Careful coupon users might appreciate a coupon file to carry with them to the supermarket. There's a calico version for \$8 at the Bon Ton and a flat wallet version, both made in China, for \$2.50 at Holman Reel.

- STILL PUZZLED? There are plenty of puzzles ranging in price from \$2.50 to \$7 at the Bon Ton. For persons who like to sit home in the evening burning their retinas out over little puzzle pieces which seemingly don't mean anything there are puzzles such as the one which shows clumps of crayons or pencils. If you want to take the holidays to be puzzling, there's a jigsaw challenge in the shape of a Christmas tree.

- For cat fanciers there are small Kilban cat puzzles. One features the back of a cat wearing a sweatshirt which says, "I'd rather be mousing." Then there's the one featuring a mother cat with kittens carrying the legend: "Hell on mice and twice as nice."

Of course, Kilban's popular momcat poster, as well as his drawings of cats in roses and supercat with a cape have been made into standard-sized jigsaw puzzles.

After all those hours of piecing together a picture of Snow White or the castle at Neuschwanstein, Springbrook has come out with a non-toxic glue to hold that puzzle together. It's called Puzzle Preserver and sells for about \$1.

- IF YOU'RE still game for some old under the tree favorites there are a variety of games available for prices between \$3-49 at stores such as Scott's Five and Dime, which carries Clue, Scrabble, Yahtzee and Sorry.

For persons who prefer to be chic with their games there's a miniature game box with a 12-by-8½-inch game

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T-shirts with the latest buzz words or a plain old western cut shirt all sell for under \$10 at jeans outlets.

An abacus was used long before man learned to put batteries into a pocket calculator. This one retails for about \$8. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



Herb gardens in a sack retail for \$5 and are entirely self-contained. Peel back the opening, plant the seeds and follow the diagram on the bottom of the bag to cut holes for drainage. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

INSIDE ANGLES

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

TEACHER AND CIVIL WAR buff Dave Finney, who usually addresses his history classes at North Farmington High, will be talking to a different audience Dec. 17-19 when he is the keynote speaker at the Civil War Roundtable Conference in Lynchburg, Va. IA's positive that Finney will be in his glory down there; therefore Angles gives him the traditional IA Civil War buff salute: hayfoot, strawfoot, hayfoot, strawfoot, hayfoot, strawfoot.

JOG, JOG, JOG: Watch out for the ice: The Farmington Y sponsors a Christmas jog at 7 p.m., Dec. 17, through Kendallwood subdivision. The intrepid carollers-joggers (they'll sing and run) will start out at the Y's lobby on Farmington Road, just a tad and a widge north of 12 Mile, and run their little feet through the slush for a needy cause. Each jogger must bring a toy for the Y's employees to deliver to the 11th Precinct in Detroit. The toys will go to needy children for Christmas. (How about singing that old favorite, "We Three Joggers of Farmington are." Or maybe for that contemporary touch "Slip Sliding Away.")

QUAKERTOWN CHAPTER of the Daughters of the American Revolution have placed a copy of the "DAR Manual for Citizenship" in the Farmington Hills branch library on 12 Mile. The booklet contains condensed information helpful to persons applying for American citizenship. The manual is in English.

THX 1138 and a film on the making of "Star Wars" will be shown at 7 p.m. Dec. 11 in 74 on the Orchard Ridge campus, Farmington Road, south of 12 Mile. The two films are part of "George Lucas Night" at the campus.

GREASE IS STILL the word in Northville when the Performing Arts Guild conducts auditions for parts in the musical from 1-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Dec. 29-30 in the Marquis Theatre, 133 East Main in downtown Northville. Persons auditioning should bring a prepared song from the show, a photo and a resume. Performers are paid a stipend for their work. Performances of "Grease" are scheduled for Feb. 13-15; 20-22; 27-28; and March 1 in the Marquis. The Performing Arts Guild is staffed by graduate and post-graduate masters of fine arts students at Wayne State's Hilberry Theatre. For further information concerning the auditions, or for tickets, call 249-9315.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS with a yen for outdoor scenes are invited to enter the Oakland County Parks Winter Photo Contest. Photographers can submit entries in several categories: black and white prints, color prints and color slides. Photographers who are 14 years old

and younger can submit their entries into their own category. A grand prize of \$200 will be awarded to the overall winner, with additional cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 awarded in each category.

Winner of the children's category receives \$50. Entrants can submit as many photos as they want but can only win in one category. All photographs entered must be taken in one of the eight Oakland County Parks. One of them, Glen Oaks, is at 30500 13 Mile in Farmington Hills. Each photo must have the contestant's name, address and phone number printed on it. The specific park location and the date the photo was taken must be included. Deadline for entries is Feb. 16. Entry forms are available by writing to Winter Photo Contest, Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, 2860 Watkins Lake Road, Pontiac, 48054, or by calling 858-0906. Judges will include photographers from the county and Detroit area media as well as representatives from professional photo studios and advertising agencies.

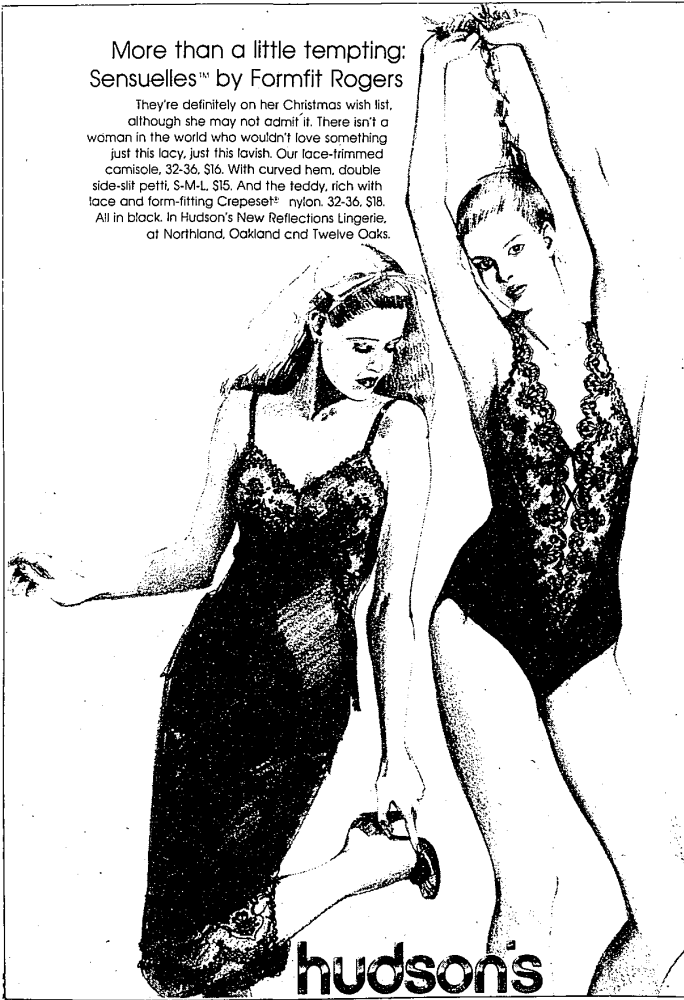
IF SNOW EVER ARRIVES IA knows all of the local snowmobile owners will want to take their machines out on the road. Youngsters between 12 and 16 years old can operate a snowmobile in Michigan only if they have in their possession a snowmobile safety certificate, or they are under direct supervision of a person older than 17 years old. Operators between 12 and 16-years-old can cross highways or streets if they have a valid snowmobile safety certificate. They must present their safety certificate to police upon request.

Children under 12 years old are prohibited by state law from driving snowmobiles except under the direct supervision of an adult. Snowmobile drivers under 12 can't cross highways or streets. Snowmobiles must be registered except if they are operated exclusively on lands owned or under control of the snowmobile owner or those used entirely in safety education and training programs conducted by certified snowmobile safety instructors. Registration can be acquired at the Secretary of State's office for \$15. Registrations are good for three years.

OUR LADY OF MERCY High School conducts its annual Christmas Concerts at 8 p.m. Dec. 12 and at 3 p.m. Dec. 14 in the school at 29300 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. The concerts feature the school's ensembles, orchestra and three glee groups singing carols. Each singer will invite a child to join in during a special number. Mercy alumnae who were part of the music program are asked to join in the finale, the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. Admission is \$1 in advance or \$2 at the door. Those attending are asked to bring a food item which will be collected at the door for the Duns Scotus Distribution Center. Proceeds from the concert go to the center. For further information call the school at 476-8020.

More than a little tempting: Sensuelles™ by Formfit Rogers

They're definitely on her Christmas wish list, although she may not admit it. There isn't a woman in the world who wouldn't love something just this lacy, just this lavish. Our lace-trimmed camisole, 32-36, \$16. With curved hem, double side-slit petti, S-M-L, \$15. And the teddy, rich with lace and form-fitting CrepeSil™ nylon, 32-36, \$18. All in black. In Hudson's New Reflections Lingerie, at Northland, Oakland and Twelve Oaks.



HUDSON'S