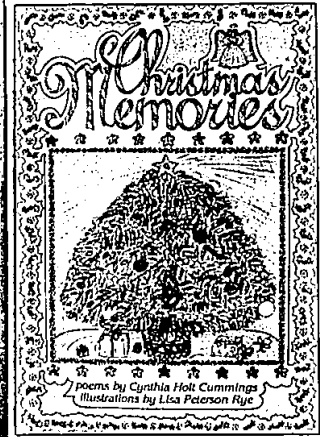


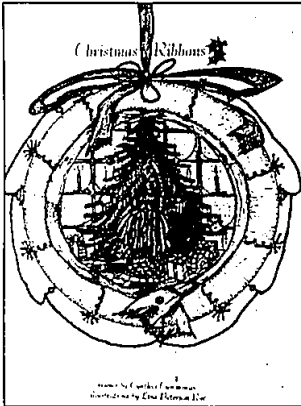
Lisa Peterson Rye (left) and Cynthia Holt Cummings teamed up to produce two illustrated volumes of Christmas poetry. Rye, 25, is a graduate of the University of Michigan art school, with her own design studio in Birmingham. Cummings, 63, is a former nurse who says she is the second Grandma Moses.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer



A second volume, "Christmas Memories," is the duo's 1982 offering, available in local gift and book stores.



"Christmas Ribbons" was first written as a personal Christmas card to friends and family. It's now in its fourth printing.

## Christmas verse

# Memories packaged in a book

By Judith Doner Berne  
staff writer

An illustrated book of Christmas poetry sent as a personal Christmas card to family and friends has become an excellent enterprise for two local women — one starting out and the other launching a second career.

"It is a labor of love that has turned into quite an adventure," said Cynthia Holt Cummings, 63, who in 1979 collected Christmas poetry she had written over the years and asked her good friend's daughter-in-law to illustrate it. Lisa Peterson Rye, now 25, had just graduated from the University of Michigan art school at the time. She spent months drawing accompanying illustrations and designing the hardcover book, which they copyrighted and published themselves.

Their friends throughout the country said the volume, "Christmas Ribbons," should be marketed and sold.

THE TWO formed Holt-Peterson Press, based at Rye's Birmingham design studio. Cummings introduced the book to gift and book shops both locally and on travels with her husband, a bank executive.

A nurse during World War II, Cummings said she started out

cold in the world of business. "I didn't even know you should have an invoice," the West Bloomfield resident said.

"I have no business training. I walk in off the street. I think the product sells itself."

In 1980, 1,700 copies were sold; last year, it jumped to 2,900 copies. Cummings discovered sales were generally better in gift stores, since the specialized book tended to get lost in bookstores.

Now they have a new book, "Christmas Memories" is out for the current season. Orders for 4,500 copies of the two books have been shipped.

Where the original book was from a bank of poetry built up over the years, poems for "Christmas Memories" all were written this year, Cummings said.

"I FOUND the second book hard to write," she said. "Poetry doesn't just come — you have to work at it."

Both women admit the volumes appeal to a certain audience. "It's the type of thing if you like it, you like it; if you don't, you don't," Cummings said.

"It's a nice little thing to give as a gift," added Rye, who lives with her husband, a machine tool executive, in Bloomfield Township. "People are always looking for new Christmas items."

Selling price ranges around \$6. Cummings and Rye report last year they made a little money. "Poetry is not a big seller," Cummings said. "We should write a good novel with a sexy cover."

"We get a lot of letters. I appreciate the exposure," said Rye. "You can never practice your art too much. I like to see a product put together."

BOTH HOPE other opportunities will develop. They've discussed taking one of the longer poems, "The Toys Celebration," and turning it into a children's picture book.

They also are considering embossing some of the shorter verses on Christmas ornaments.

Then there's always the thought of moving away from Christmas-oriented materials.

"We've stuck to Christmas. We might get brave enough to try something else that could be in a shop all year long," Rye said.

Cummings will be autographing the volumes Dec. 5 at the Strawberry Patch in Rochester, Dec. 11 at the Mole Hole in Birmingham and Dec. 19 at the Village Barn in Franklin. "I'm having a second career," she said. "I'm like a second Grandma Moses."

## Beat inflation battle on the brewery front

By Maurie Walker  
staff writer

There's great news for beer drinkers. How would you like a 12-ounce bottle of good-tasting beer for just 11 cents, a six pack for 66 cents, or a case for \$2.64?

Sound like a beer-lover's dream? It could be, but it's a fact.

And it's made possible by easily — and legally — making your own home brew.

Rick Cushman of Garden City, owner of United Home Brewers Co., 33165 Ford Road, has all the equipment and ingredients needed to make a good beer right in your own home. A complete brewing kit is \$29.95.

"This is really the only investment needed. The kit can be used for as long as a person wants to make beer," Cushman said. "After that, all that a person has to buy is the malt and sugar."

Cushman has more than 35 different hopped malt extracts that range in price from \$4.99 to \$10. There's light, dark, amber, pilsner, heavy, stout — any type malt to fit a person's taste. With sugar at \$2.80 for a four-pound bag, a person can make five gallons of beer for about \$8.75.

A KIT CONSISTS of a 7½-gallon tank, a thermometer, a tube for siphoning the beer for bottling, a bag of bottle caps, two pounds of corn sugar and choice of malt along with instructions on how to make the brew.

Also available are bottle cappers and a copper corker.

"It's a very simple process," Cushman said.

"Four gallons of cold tap water are put in the tank. Then you fill a one-gallon pot with tap water, allow to boil and pour in a can of malt and yeast, which is included in the price of the malt, and two

pounds of corn sugar.

No preservatives are added, so you have a pure beer.

"The ingredients are stirred and allowed to simmer for about 10 minutes. This is then poured into the large vat of cold water and let to ferment for about a week at 70-degree temperature before bottling.

"We don't sell bottles but all a person has to do is go to any party store and ask to buy a case or two of empties, which are worth five cents a piece. Once the bottles are sterilized and labels removed, they are ready for your beer," Cushman said.

Making brew at home became legal in February 1979, Cushman said, when Congress passed a law allowing a person to produce 100 gallons per year tax-free.

CUSHMAN STARTED making beer as a hobby about three years ago.

"I worked in a factory for 15 years and finally decided to go into business for myself," he said.

"My wife, Linda, has a beauty shop in Oak Park so with her income we decided to gamble on this business, which is turning out very well."

He has been in the business in Garden City for six months and said that October was a record month for him.

"A lot of people find this is an inexpensive and fun hobby. I've had people buy the kit as presents, too," Cushman added.

"What's nice about it is that any adult can make their own home brew with very little cost and in a short time."

"And another factor is that in today's economy, beer lovers can have all of it they want without handing out a lot of money."

"By following the simple directions, a person can enjoy a pure, good tasting brew," Cushman said.

## Hills' City Council balking at controlling park property

Continued from Page 1

"I would think they'd want control. Obviously, if it's in our community, we would like an opportunity to give them our thoughts on it. But if it does wind up belonging to the county, then it's their show, and that limits our ability to have a decision," said Soronen.

Purchase by the city has been discussed, "but that would mean a lot of money, and we have an awful lot of things that we need to do," she added.

"Many capital improvements have been presented by the staff. We have to weigh this against some other very important things, but we haven't said absolutely no."

Most likely, according to the broker, the land would be developed as another subdivision.

"We're not interested in any buyers who would make the sale contingent upon changing the property's (residential) zoning," said Thomas.

"And we would prefer that the land be sold as one parcel. We're certainly not going to break it up into lots. But if two people came along simultaneously and each took half, for example, that would be seriously considered. It's the most beautiful piece of land of its kind in the area, and it's almost in the exact center of the community. It's magnificent."

One Christmas gift he'll never put away: the Izod® Rider jacket

A sleek nylon jacket that comes in its own handy pouch for toting when you're not wearing it. It's even been already, so all you have to do is wrap it. Six colors: navy, red, yellow, tan, lavender or Augusta green. Sizes S-M-L-XL. \$25. In Hudson's Men's Woodward Shops, all stores except Downtown.

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