



m.m. memos

Margaret Miller

The old order changes

Family Christmas will be different this year.

For many years our home and hearth has been the center of activity. Our fireplace has been the spot where stockings have hung, our Christmas tree has been the one loaded to the gills with gifts.

And our living room has been the one where the carpet was entirely obscured by unwrapped gifts and discarded wrappings once the excitement was over.

BUT NOT THIS CHRISTMAS. This year the man of our house will load gifts into the car and head for the nearby home of our daughter and son-in-law and granddaughter Katie.

They'll take care of the stocking detail, and we'll stack gifts under their tree.

It's their home that will be the scene of a Christmas grand opening, to be shared with Katie's other grandparents and their family.

That home, also, will be the main stop for our college daughter and her husband, who plan to be in for the holidays, and their telephone will be used to place two long-distance telephone

calls, one to New England and one to Alaska, to the daughters who won't be with us for Christmas.

And of course it's my daughter's floor that will be obscured by gifts and wrappings. I may help her pick them up, though. She's been very good about helping me in the last few years.

KATIE'S PARENTS asked for the new order. A lot of being told around was wearing on their small daughter, they said. They thought it would be good if their family could be home on Christmas and let others visit them.

My daughter even was ready to start a tradition I had avoided for many years. She'd plan a Christmas dinner, and how would it be if we had roast beef?

I'm in complete agreement with her request. I did the same thing a generation ago. A friend who has made the same tradition put it very well. "You go where the baby is," she said.

The tradition of a family Christmas remains intact. And if I feel a little nostalgia when I load the car, I won't let it show.

It will be gone, anyway, when we all gather around the Katie.

Courses for kids probe world's natural wonders

Cranbrook Institute of Science will add new courses about weather, ancient people, fossils and counting to its popular series of children's classes that explore the wonders of the natural world. They will begin the week of Jan. 5 at 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

"Wonders of the World Around You," is for preschoolers who are at least four years of age. Classes for kindergartners are "Museum Explorers" and "Physics Fun."

First and second graders can enroll in "Animals with Fur," "Reptiles and Amphibians" and "Wonders of Weather."

The new class "Ancient Civilization," which explores the earliest writings of the Sumerians, Egyptian pyramids and more, will be offered along with "Natural Wonders" for second and third graders.

"Star Worlds" and the new course "Weatherific," all about weather and how to predict which kind is coming, is

intended for third and fourth graders.

Students in grades three, four and five may enroll in a new short class, "Count Me In," which explores the fun of counting in many cultures.

Also new will be "Introduction to Paleontology," all about fossils from early plants and animals to dinosaurs and mastodons, plus "Astronomy 1982" for fourth and fifth graders.

"Origami," "Camera Craft" and "Science Wizardry" are for students in grades four through six and "Chemistry Experiments" is for fifth and sixth graders.

Two popular courses, "Introduction to Microcomputers," for seventh and eighth graders, and "Cross Country Skiing," for students in grades six through eight, begin in January.

Most classes meet 4-5 p.m. one weekday for four weeks. Fees range from \$10 to \$34. Sections are offered throughout January, February and March. For information, call 645-3230.

Holiday Elegance



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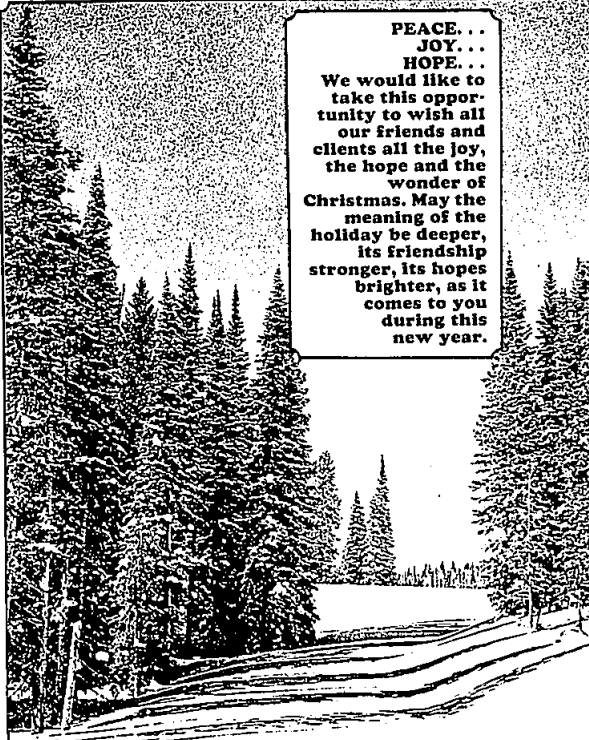
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