

The Lilliputian world of Bliss reflected the life-sized world and the changes taking place in it at the turn of the century. The Bliss catalog advertised a 12-story skyscraper in 1901, just a few years after such towers arrived on the full-sized architectural scene. The Bliss Skyscraper sold for 10 cents.

A dime had real purchasing power back then, but parents felt the Bliss playthings were worth the money as both pastime and learning experience. In that more traditional day, little girls learned about the complexities of running a household from the Bliss doll house and its accompanying furniture. And small businessmen were in the making as little boys played grocer.

A Bliss grocery store, circa 1895, fea-

tures instructive lithography. In a window showing cuts of meat, there is an apple barrel with a sign indicating that apples are 15 cents a peck and pickles are 10 cents a dozen. Along with staples such as flour, butter and lard, there are stove polish and bottles of blueing.

Stove polish and blueing are household products of a bygone era. It is an era that stands still on R. Bliss' miniature Main Street. Although the last known entry of the R. Bliss Manufacturing Company appeared in the 1935 Pawtucket & Central Falls city directory, the small world of Bliss lives on. This Christmas, a corner of it can be seen at the White House when Main Street comes to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.



2 islands named Christmas

Two widely separated islands bear the name Christmas.

One is in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles south of the western part of Java. It consists mainly of a plateau, about 1,000 feet above sea level, that is the top of a mountain extending about 14,000 feet below the sea's surface. The Japanese occu-

pled the 55-square-mile island during World War II.

The other Christmas Island, discovered in 1777 by British Capt. James Cook, has an area of 95 square miles and lies near the equator. About 1,200 miles south of Honolulu, it was the site of British and American nuclear experiments.

Personalized Ornaments

The Williams 1984
Carol and Curt 1984
Nana
Brian 1984
Grandpa Joe

Usually Unicorns.
a gifted place.

Personalized FREE while you shop.

150 W. Maple • Downtown Birmingham • 642-0264
"Half the fun of giving...is choosing."



For a classic look in country and tradition, Carl Sterr provides an excellent selection and personalized service in clothing for men and women.

CLASSIC STYLE.



UNCOMMON SERVICE.

Bloomfield Commons • Maple and Lahser • Birmingham • 645-6675
80 Kercheval • On the Hill • Grosse Pointe Farms • 882-3590



Birmingham

