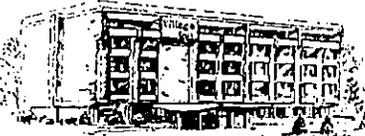


**Birmingham's
VILLAGE INN**



- The Preferred Inn for your Holiday guests.
- Continental Breakfast.

Please inquire about our furnished executive homes
For information call Sally Roberts. 642-6200

The Inn Where Every Guest Is Important
300 N. Hunter • Birmingham • 642-6200

Christmas cards

Age-old tradition enters high tech

Snow may be falling, and stores may be bustling with shoppers, but it really isn't Christmastime until the letter carrier delivers the first Christmas card of the season.

This season, approximately 3.5 billion Christmas cards will be sent in the United States. That figure is even more impressive when one realizes how far the greeting card has evolved since its beginnings.

The history of greeting cards goes back more than 500 years. Yet today's cards continue to create history, according to a spokesman for American Greetings. For example, such companies are offering new lines of greeting cards this Christmas that use the technological capabilities of the microchip. Some cards actually can reproduce the human voice, and other have noises such as engines and thunder. In other cards, small lights blink when the cards are powered by a thin battery that drives a small silicon microchip and speaker inside the card.

THE TECHNOLOGY may be new, but the idea was used long ago. In 1878, an English publisher introduced sound cards that were two thin pasteboard layers sandwiching a flat suction whistle. When pressed, the card emitted a friendly chirp.

The custom of exchanging cards dates back to the 1400s when Europeans left special greetings while visiting friends on New Year's Day. These greetings were often small woodcuts wishing good will for the coming year. Sometimes they featured an engraving of the Christ Child.

This practice ended in 1652 when England's Puritan Parliament abolished public observance of Christmas. Later, during the early years of Queen Victoria's reign, Christmas celebrations came back into fashion, and shopkeepers began to add seasonal greetings to their trade cards.

The year 1843 is notable in the history of the Christmas card. Charles Dickens popularized the message of this holiday in his novel, "A Christmas Carol," and to celebrate this event, an exclusive shop on London's Old Bond Street offered its customers the first Christmas card.

One day during that season, a gentleman named Henry Cole passed by the shop. He was known in England as a passionate supporter of the Penny Post, a mailing system started three years earlier that allowed the sender of mail to bear the cost instead of the receiver.

Cole conceived an idea to send a Christmas message via the Penny Post and asked his friend John Calcott Horsley to

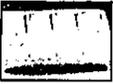
Be at Your Holiday Best



WE'RE INTRODUCING THE SEBASTIAN HAIRCARE SYSTEME

From the masters of Celipharas, a four-step haircare program that promises to bring any head of hair to a level of shine, beauty and health you never experienced before.

Ask your stylist about it. At our salon.



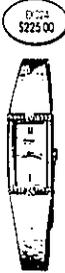
Gift Certificates Available

Anton's
HAIR CARE OF Birmingham

1077 S. Worth • Next to Boulevard Bridal
Birmingham • 646-8383

Pulsar® Quartz

Diamond watches for Christmas.
From Pulsar Quartz.



\$225.00



\$195.00



\$200.00

Christmas sparkles, and so do these elegant diamond watches from Pulsar. A perfectly beautiful gift to give or receive. All so affordable, you'll start believing in Santa Claus.

We have a complete selection of Pulsar watches starting at \$49.50.

GEORGE ROSS JEWELERS
244 East Maple • Birmingham • 644-8215
Established in 1951 Mon thru Sat: 9:30-5:30

bedsit



the perfect gift

Chair by day — Bed by night
Available in a variety of
pack cloths, cotton ducks,
linens, coverlets and quilts
in many colors and styles

from

\$59

the good life starts
JIMMIES RUSTICS

29500 W. 6 Mile Rd. • Livonia 522-9200 221 Hamilton • Birmingham (Downtown) 644-1919



Birmingham

