

Now is time to open the gift of art ability

By David Messing
special writer

Well, by now people across America are sitting around in an "after Christmas stupor" wondering what they're going to do with their gifts. Grandma is wondering how she managed to get three identical sets of bath powder from three different grandchildren. Grandpa's been wondering for two days now, how to set the time on his new digital wrist watch. Moms and wives are wondering how they are going to be able to return items without hurting anyone's feelings. And last of all and certainly least, Dads and husbands are sitting in their new robes, pa-

James and slippers still wondering how to put together the toys Santa brought their children.

All in all, there is nothing like Christmas. For the young, Christmas is a fantasy to experience and for the old it is a treasure chest of memories. For the middle-aged, Christmas is a time to share their children's fantasy yet it is also a singular coin for their future treasure chest of memories. One of the coins in my treasure chest is the "Santa's Secret Shop," at the Cleveland Elementary School, where my children attended. I appreciate all of the socks, ties, shirts, pants, cologne and tools I bought in the name of the kids by my wife Sandy.

But I will always remember and smile when I think of the gifts my boys, as little tots, bought at the "Santa Secret Shop." Without the prompting and urging of adults, the little school children browse and try to find the perfect gift for Mom and Dad. Imagine all those little boys with real paper money wadded up tight in their fat little hands. And those little ladies who may have for the first time actually needed their petite purse to carry the money they were entrusted with.

SCOTT FOR example, bought me a genuine plastic replica of a knight in not so shining armor. And I'll never forget the little silver painted plastic

dog Kevin gave his mother. This was a real treasure because it had purple rhinestones for eyes. Why I remember it so clearly, is that when Sandy opened the box and lifted the little dog out, one of the eyes popped off right while she was saying how beautiful it was. We had all we could do to keep from laughing. Our gifts from the children over the years range from bowling pin nail clippers and life saver key chains, to hot pads and plastic jewelry. But I'll tell you one thing, you could never separate the little gifts from all the love. And the showing of love is in the giving more than the gift itself.

Perhaps one of the greatest gifts that many are given is a gift that is often

overlooked; the gift of art, which is first a gift of sensitivity. Then the sensitivity is brought forth in artistic expression. What a versatile gift.

One finds expression in clay and another by painting, still another finds ventilation in prose or rhyme, one in dancing, another in acting, one must sing while another finds an empty page a challenge for his or her writing abilities. What a shame that most overlook their gift.

Imagine your feelings if the one to whom you have given gifts refused to open them because they didn't believe it was for them. Truly the joy of giving is multiplied when what is given is appreciated. Many of you reading this ar-

ticle have barely tugged at the ribbon of your gift. While others have opened up and enjoyed the expression that any art form offers. Of all the arts, the one of two dimensional and three dimensional representation gives you a second chance. By that, I mean, even if you haven't opened your gift of art ability or further developed your art for many years, it is still not too late to start.

Fortunately our gifts from God require no batteries and come without assembly instructions. Often new students of mine will whisper to me, "I haven't drawn for 30 years, but I used to be pretty good in high school."



CUSTOM BUILDER'S MODEL

- Decorator papers, coordinate colors.
- 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Colonial.
- Court setting, lake privileges.
- Special financing available, owner anxious.

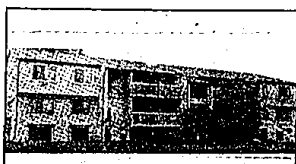
643-8500



BLOOMFIELD CONDO

- 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Townhouse Condo.
- Neutral tones throughout, white glove condition.
- Estate sale, one owner, 1 car garage, full basement.
- Convenient to shopping centers, schools, highways/freeways.

643-8500



FARMINGTON HILLS CONDOMINIUM

- Sharp contemporary beautifully decorated condominium.
- 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, central air, kitchen appliances.
- Built-in entertainment unit, mirrored closets.
- Track lighting throughout. Priced to sell!

\$69,900

851-2303

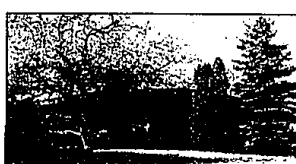


LUXURY TOWNHOUSE - GREAT AREA

- 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, family room, fireplace and basement.
- Guest parking at front, rear garden entrance, 2 carports.
- Choice location, beautiful complex, pool and clubhouse.
- Assume excellent Land Contract terms at 10 1/4% interest.

\$73,000

640-6777



LAND CONTRACT AT 11% FOR 3 YEARS

- Only \$7,000 is needed to move right in to this home.
- Sharp Contemporary ranch with unusual Florida room.
- 3-4 bedrooms, 2 baths, in Cranbrook Village area.
- Creative financing is available, bring offers.

\$63,900

540-6777



VERY IMPRESSIVE PROPERTY

- Lathrup Village Cape Cod in Estate Section.
- Decorated to perfection-formal dining room.
- Master bedroom suite with full bath and sewing nook.
- Choice home in a choice location.

\$115,000

557-6700



HUNTINGTON WOODS

- 3 bedrooms with 3 1/2 baths, excellent condition.
- Updated contemporary kitchen and breakfast area.
- Study, formal dining, huge family room.
- Zoned heating, finished basement and more!

\$112,000

547-2000



PRIME BLOOMFIELD AREA

- Large family home in beautiful condition on 2 plus acres.
- 6 bedrooms, family room, exceptional lower level walkout.
- Spectacular view of wooded ravine site, pool-cabana.
- Located off Michigan Natural Beauty Road.

\$335,000

540-6777

SOUTHFIELD/LATHRUP
557-6700

ROYAL OAK
547-2000

Chamberlain
REALTORS

WEST BLOOMFIELD
851-2303

BLOOMFIELD
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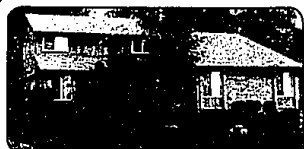
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SALE POSITIONS AVAILABLE...CALL TODAY



IMMACULATE COLONIAL

SHARP 4 bedroom Colonial. Best buy in Farmington Ridge sub. Very clean, tastefully decorated, full basement, central air and alarm system. \$123,900. 851-1900.



BUILDERS MODEL

POPULAR "FRANKLIN MODEL." Desirable location. Open area with balcony. Custom package, wood, alarm system, many extras. Immediate occupancy. \$149,900. 851-1900.



NEARLY NEW

BRICK COLONIAL, built in 1981. Immaculate 4 bedroom home with 2 1/2 baths. Enjoy a full brick fireplace in family room. Plush neutral carpet. Large kitchen and 1st floor laundry. Backyard is beautiful, private and many trees. \$119,500. 851-1900.



CUSTOM QUALITY

4 bedroom home completely redecorated within last 6 months. Breath-taking private wooded setting, curved stairway, 6 panel doors, custom moldings, finished rec room with wet bar, sprinkling systems. Kitchen built-ins. \$179,900. 851-1900.



KIMBERLY SUB

QUALITY HOME. Gracious large colonial with flowing floor plan. Priced to sell. Motivated seller. Beautiful private back yard. Custom features cedar closet. Large workshop. \$92,800. 851-1900.



LAND CONTRACT TERMS

THIS 5 bedroom home needs a new family to replace the one that has grown and gone. Extremely large family room with fireplace, rec room and country kitchen all add to the living pleasure. Walk to town. \$85,900. 477-1111.



SPECIAL LENDER SALE

THREE bedroom brick ranch, large lot, 2 car garage, basement, 1 1/2 baths. Ideal for fix-up. Special financing available from lender. \$49,900. 477-1111.

Lathrup Village
Mary Ann Grawl-Mgr.
859-2300

Westland
Laura Cantin, Mgr.
326-2000

Livonia
Barbara Walkowicz-Mgr.
825-0990

Farmington
Jim Stevens-Mgr.
477-1111



Farmington Hills
Genny Conrad-Mgr.
851-1900

Livonia
Jerry Poclast, Mgr.
261-0700

Plymouth/Canton
Joe Melnik-Mgr.
455-7000

Northville
Sharon Serra-Mgr.
348-6430



A REAL GEM

PERFECT SETTING. Charming Cape Cod home on spectacular wooded ravine lot with stream. 3 bedrooms, living room with fireplace, walkout basement and lovely Florida room. Assumable. \$128,000. 477-1111.



ELEGANCE THROUGHOUT

BEAUTIFULLY maintained colonial in quiet neighborhood. Professionally decorated with lovely papers. Spotless home. Motivated seller. \$69,000. 659-2500.



SUPER LIVING

THREE bedroom brick ranch on dead end street. Large bay in living room, fireplace, extra large family room with built-in glass sliding doors from back yard. Fence in yard with pine trees. \$47,500. 659-2300.

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2. Winter buyers are serious buyers. Traditionally the biggest transfer month.
3. Less competition for buyers. That means more money for your home now.

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COMMERCIAL

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NORTHVILLE

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NOVI

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