# What's topping many holiday book wish lists more on the living spirit of Dorothy's offspring. • "The Innocent" by Ian McEwan (Doubleday, \$18.95). This macabre thriller has been hailed as one of McEwan's Inset. In the darkest days of the Cold War, a young British post office technican becomes involved in a clandestine project in war torn Berlin (and also in a passionate affair with a rather mysterious woman), Much of the action is centered around an actual happening: the construction, by the British and Americans, of a secret underground tunnel,

I still can't believe it.

But there it is, pictured in one of the decreas of holiday gift catalogs. The received this year, Arme get subraultous perfumes, lingering, and coach hangers, more domes, travel clocks, et al. it's certainly "the gift with a difference," you must admit. It appears fairly sturdy, looks to be about the size of a small breadbox, and it costs \$30.

But you can trust me on this: I do not want a bat house for Christmas. The bat should be "revered," my catalog admonishes. After all, it eats insects at a rate of 500 plus per hour. I still don't want a bat house for Christmas.

Christmas.
Actually, I'm not aware of anyone who does. (Maybe I know the wrong

people?)
So what does any of this have to do with books? Nothing really, it's just my way of reminding you that, though they may not be exactly standing in line for bat houses this year, there are millions of people out there who do yearn for good books at hollday time.

THE FOLLOWING are topping

"A Life on the Road by Charles Kuralt (G.P. Potnam's Sons \$19.95). The most poetic of newsmen writes

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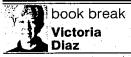
- Victoria Diaz

of the nomadic existence he has lived and loved since hiring on at CBS for \$135 a week in 1957. Most of

CRS for \$135.5 week in \$157. Most of the book focuses behind-the-scenes on his Emmy-winning series. "On the Road."

1 always wondered where the roads went." Kaualt says, remembering his North Carolina boyhood. For him, they eventually went nearly everywhere. Val this book, readers get to go along for the ride. Block and whith photos are included.

2 "Laura lngalls Wilder Country" by William Anderson. (Harper Perenaila, \$19.55). This glossy apperback should be joy to all Wilder fans. The book is a kind of photo-



graphic record of the Midwestern author's life, with extensive text by Michigan historian William Anderson. Contemporary photos (by Leslie Kelly) are interspersed with pictures from the Ingala-Wilder family collection. (Some Wilder devotees may be surprised to learn that the original manuscript of The Long Winter, her sixth book, was presented to the Detroit Public Library in 1849 by Wilder herself, and in now housed in the Rare Book and Glit Room.)

The Order House of Herself and the Midwester of Christianity "edited by John Medhannas Symbol Wilder Library For each of the Some Symbol Wilder Library Several-underd pages of text and striking arriwork focus on the 2,000 years of history since the birth of Christ, and chronicle ways in which Christianity has shaped that history.

"Friday Night Lishts" by H.G.

history.

• "Friday Night Lights" by H.G.

FERGUSON, WHO majored in mass communications at Wayne State University, has always been a doodler and a thinker who transfers his thoughts to a sketch pad or a can-

vas.
"I even watch commercials on television and think about how to illustrate them."

television and think about how to il-ultrate them.

The father of two, Ferguson hopes is work focusing on social Issues, such as violence and the environ-ment, makes his young daughters aware early on of the problem fac-ing the country.

For the artist, the transition from commercial art to the more abstract work on display at Detroit Artists Market is "like a writer switching from a textbook to a novel."

"I'm so grateful for my diversity. I just hope that people will see my message."

LAKE EDGEWOOD TOWNHOMES emporary & Luxurious • Specious Luxury names privacy than most home • Only 20 munutes from A r. 30 minutes away from Southfield and Farmingto

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MODEL HOURS DAILY 12-5 Gred Rise Late Comments
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also part of the fun.

"Looking for a Ship" by John McPhee (Straus and Giroux, \$17.95). A fascinating book for those of us who love to settle in with a good, sealaring tale on a winter's night. Looking for a Ship" reads almost like fiction, but it's really the true story of essayist McPhee's own 42-day adventure aboard the Merchant Marine vesel, the SS Stella Lykes. Cruise out of Charlotte, S. Cruise out of Charlotte,

armchair adventurers, it's a dream.

"Passing On' by Penelope
Lively (Grove Weldenfeld, \$17.95).
Dorothy Glover, an unloving mother
it ever there was one, has passed on,
leaving her three grown children
with the remains of her body and
spirit. This novel by British author
Lively is not a ghost story in the
traditional sense, though. Selected as
a Notable Book for 1990 by the New
York Times Book Review, it centers

Bissinger (Addison-Wesley, \$19.35). Pullizer Prize-winning journalist Bissinger writes of the agony and ecstasy of high school football in Odessa, Tex. Playing for Odessa's Permian Panthers, who win state championships as if there were no tomorrows, a boy can be a worshipped town her oa if to 17 but what happens after high school for these kids'. Friday Night Lights' is not just a close look at one football program, though, but a comment on high school althelicts and America's passion with sports in general.

general.

• "Epicurean Delight" by Evan Jones (Knopf, \$24.95). Subtitled, "The Life and Times of James Beard," this should be a treat for biography lans, history buffs and coshook lovers. Dozens of the famed gournet's favorite recipes are included. Black-and-white photos are also part of the fun.

Come home to Privacy
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which led to Soviet communication lines beneath the city.

• "A Relative Stranger" by Charles Baster (Notroa, 1817-95). Here is a baker's dozen of short sto-ries set in Michigan and created by the critically acclaimed author of 'Through the Safety Net' and "First Light." If you're looking for some-ching perceptive, knowing and hu-morous about familial relationships, leaks a fashipe.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia-based book reviewer.

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### HEATHERS

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### Dream comes true for Livonia artist

Continued from Page 1

offer to make a difference. I wanted to use my talents to address the public."

BESIDES THE work on display, Ferguson plans to do more paintings to call attention to social problems. The Habitat Series, which the artist hopes to make available in posters, will include a painting called "April Showers." The painting will illustrate his concern for the environment. It will include three scenes that show industrial pollution, acid rain and barren and, or the cause, effect and result of industrial work. Another work in progress is an acrylic painting depicting the slugghter of harp seals, a practice that Ferguson and his wife oppose by supporting animal rights and environmental groups.

FERGUSON'S STUDIO, a small, converted bedroom, is filled with sketches, current work and completed projects that may or may not

have commercial value.

Some of his ideas are inspired by newspaper photographs and magazine illustrations. And many of his favorities, which aren't for sale, decorate his art deco-style home.

Lining the staircase is an untilled portrait of an overweight, pearshaped man deep in thought. Done in mixed media, the detail shows every weln and line in the man's aging body and each wrinkle in the subject's clothes.

clothes. The artist's favorite, called "The Balloon Lady," is done in acrylic, pencil and ink. Again, the close attention to detail makes the portrait of the old lady smoking on the beach appear as sharp as a photograph. Another favorite is titled, "The Yuprising Over the Bermuda Triangie"

Yuprising Over the Bermuda Trian-ile."

The aerylic, poster-sized painting, inspired during Ferguson's years at Sibley Shoes, shows a well-polished pair of penny loafers on the feet of an up-and-coming yupple. In the background are trendy jeans, jewelry and sport clothes, all included to show the excess in the '90s.

### 'Messiah' to be performed

Continued from Page 1

man, attending a performance of the Messiah, is as much of a part of his Chrstmas tradition as going to church. That is an enviable hollday tradition worth beginning.

"I can't imagine the Christmas ason without Christmas music,"

Tickets for the third concert of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra's

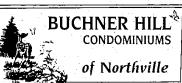
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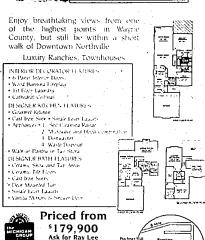
45th anniversary season are \$12 for adults, \$8 for students K-12. The "Messlab plus" tickets are available in Plymouth at Evola Music Center, 215 Ann Arbor Road and Beliner Jewelry, 904 W. Ann Arbor Trail; in Northville at Bookstall on the Main, 116 E. Main, and Orin Jewelers, 101 E. Main, in Livonia at Hammell Music. 15530 Middlebell; and at the auditorium box office, 40181 Joy, Canton Township, 30 minutes before the performance.

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