

Handmade crafts can make nice gifts

By Janice Tigar-Kramer
special writer

LOOKING FOR an out-of-the-ordinary gift for a special someone on your holiday list? Consider a handmade item from one of many local crafters:

● STICK-AROUNDS

It took two Farmington Hills moms with six kids between them to come up with Stick-Arounds, a design-your-own sticker kit for children ages 3 and up.

Susan Dovitz and Randee Bloom developed Stick-Arounds (a great stocking stuffer), which includes two pages of stickers ready to color, cut, peel and stick any which way on two illustrations included in the package. Five versions of Stick-Arounds include basic shapes, animal shapes, beach-scene shapes, Christmas shapes and Jewish shapes.

Dovitz and Bloom designed the craft to encourage creativity, provide safe, quiet play and stimulate imagination. The craft was just given the stamp of approval by the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

Stick-Arounds, with crayons included, is \$2 per package or \$3 for the kit with crayons and safety scissors.

To order, call 855-7839.

● THE OLD WOODEN HOUSE

A gift from The Old Wooden House could be tomorrow's heirloom.



JIM JAGOFELD/staff photographer

Jary's Clowns are squeezably soft, childproof and washable. Clowns come in three sizes (\$13.75-\$22), plus a giant 44-inch size. Each is fully dressed and has a hand-embroidered face and yarn hair.

Woodworker Jean Payton began making country-style wood furniture for dolls, children and adults just three years ago. Using mostly pine (or hardwoods on request), she sells a complete line of furnishings to outfit a playroom or a master bedroom.

The Redford Township woodworker

sells a popular child's table with two benches for \$100, plus a matching stove, refrigerator, sink and hutch for \$100 each. A pine doll cradle with foam bed, sheet and comforter is \$45 and a child's rocking chair with cushion sells for \$45. Handcrafted doll strollers and doll high chairs are \$25 and \$30.

Complete the room with a child's ironing board and heart-shaped iron. You'll also find a line of dressed bears with furniture for just \$15-\$25.

Payton, who made the furniture for her grandchild's nursery, takes special orders for six-year cribs (including a canopy and mattress), kid's headboards and dressers with removable changing tables.

The full-time woodworker also sells a handsome six-foot desk in pine or oak with a roomy hutch for \$750-\$1,000.

After remodeling her family room, Payton, mostly a self-taught woodworker, decided no project was too big to try. "I love woodworking and I like a challenge," she said.

Call The Old Wooden House at 255-0280.

● JARY'S CLOWNS

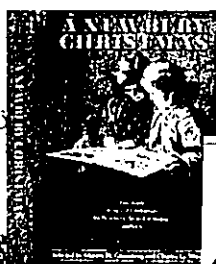
Jary Shepard started making soft-sculptured clowns for her son, niece and nephews just five years ago.

Today, the Garden City crafter sells a complete line of clowns in three sizes wearing everything from dresses to jumpsuits. The child-proof, washable clowns, with hand-embroidered faces, yarn hair and attached clothing, sell for \$13.75-\$22.

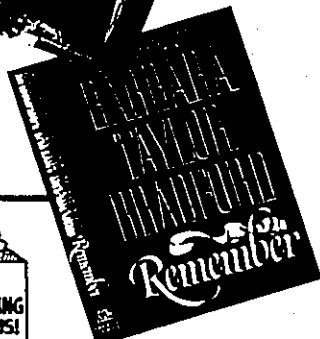
If you think clowns are kid's stuff, you haven't seen Shepard's 44-inch, soft sculptured, fully-dressed clown.

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