

'tis the season



"Generosity is the vanity of giving."
-La Rochefoucauld

If generosity is vain, that explains why we take so much pleasure in watching those we love open a gift we've chosen for them.

Giving a gift is personal, an action that reflects your many roles in life — parent, child, friend, spouse, co-worker — even cohort! You want to brighten the faces of those you love with thoughtful gifts, but giving your time and attention to shopping can be hard this time of year. The days are spent working and the evening filled with parties and other activities.

So if you're finding time is short and your list is long — relax. Just sit back, take a look at this year's Eccentric Newspapers 'Tis the Season special section, published Thursday, December 8, 1994. It's full of great ideas that are available close to your home.

Happy Holidays and have a wonderful New Year's, too!

Suzanne L. Parker

Gift guide coordinator

CREDITS

Eccentric staff writer Suzanne L. Parker edited 'Tis the Season using story material provided by Copley News Service. Observer & Eccentric creative services director Glenn Merrillat designed the cover. Jeannie Bentley, Eccentric advertising representative, coordinated advertising. Direct queries to Parker at (810) 901-2560.

Midnight spree makes holiday shopping fun

Balloons, carriage rides, musical entertainment — it hardly sounds like a typical holiday shopping venture!

So dump the drudgery and have a good time finishing off your gift list this year. Join Birmingham's "Midnight Shopping Spree," Friday, December 9 from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Over 70 downtown Birmingham stores and restaurants will be open until midnight for an evening of great values, relaxed shopping and live outdoor entertainment — not

to mention a guest appearance by Santa himself!

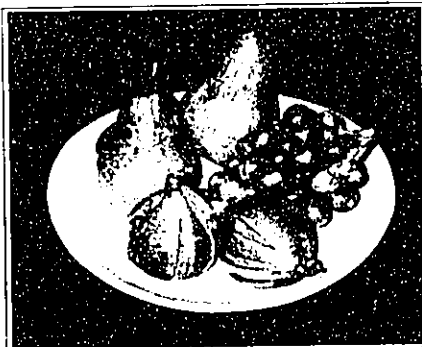
When you're done shopping, sit, relax and listen to the carolers or enjoy a free carriage ride around the downtown area.

While you're at it, don't forget those who need your help, too. If you have any children's and women's coats, gloves and hats for The Haven Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Agency, drop them off at The Mole Hole or Astreins while you're in town.



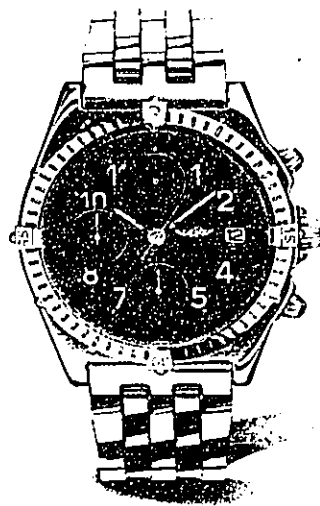
A WARM GLOW:

Add some ambience with these gilded fruit candles -- plump pears (\$19); ripened figs (\$18); and rich purple grapes (\$22) on a hand-carved soapstone plate (\$27). At O' Susannah, Birmingham.



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