

## Blankets Sold, Tinsel Did Not

By CORINNE ABATT

Area shoppers gave Christmas presents with a long, cold, home-bound winter in mind.

An Observer Newspapers survey showed blankets, billiard and ping pong tables, pianos and guitars were among the hottest items, but Christmas trees and decorations were down in sales.

The number of holiday blanket buyers still amazes Albert Margolin of Livonia Hardware. "More than ever before," he comments.

Craft kits were another thing that went very well, according to Margolin. He expects these "things that make you think" are taking over a sizable portion of the toy market.

Demand for blankets was

also heavy at Crowley's Livonia Mall store.

"Especially electric blankets," says clerk Nancy Rasmussen, "although, we sold all kinds. Not too many wool because we didn't have many wool to begin with. I would say blankets sales are up from last year."

Home oriented leisure time items were popular with holiday gift givers. Most store owners and their help attribute this trend to the energy crisis.

Many report a steady demand for ping pong and billiard equipment.

Dave Highbright, Viscount Pools No. 2, Livonia, estimated that pool table sales were up some 25 percent over last December, "and the increase in ping pong sales was just unbelievable."

Highbright reports the sale of artificial Christmas trees and trim was off between 30 and 80 percent.

Speaking about his sales and those of a friend who had an outdoor tree lot, he says, "The Christmas trim

and tree business, both real and artificial, was on the whole a bomb — the biggest bomb of the holiday season."

While Bob Zmicky, assistant manager of Frank's of Farmington says trees went "relatively well here," trim was another story. Less trim was ordered for the opening of the season, and more was left over than last year and the after-Christmas sale of trim is slower so far.

Zmicky says that while his live trees went well (a \$3.99 special) he saw hundreds left on the lots along Grand River and Eight Mile.

"I saw them burning just hundreds of trees."

Montgomery Ward's Southfield store ran out of ping pong tables.

"I have no idea how many we could have sold. We just plain ran out," says clerk Jack Stern.

### Area Deaths, Funerals

**STANLEY J. BIANCHI**—Services for Mr. Bianchi, 84, of 8800 Opoto, Livonia, were 8 the Charles E. Sapp Funeral Home with burial in Woodside Cemetery. Mr. Bianchi, a native of Lithuania, died Dec. 23, his 84th birthday.

He had lived in Livonia since 1955 and was a retired employee of Haddon Daines. Survivors are two children, Adeline LaSalle of Livonia and Elmer of Livonia; two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**FRANK A. BOWERS**—Services for Mr. Bowers, 58, of 5551 N. Tenth Street, Plymouth, were in Castelle Funeral Home with burial in Woodside Cemetery. Mr. Bowers died suddenly Dec. 24 at his home. He had lived in Plymouth 50 years and was a retired cook at Maybury Sanatorium.

Survivors are a son, George of Plymouth; daughter, Mrs. Olive Baumgartner of Plymouth; and Mrs. Grace of Waco, 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

**ALICE C. FITZPATRICK**—Services for Mrs. Fitzpatrick, 45, of 18157 Pinetree, Northville, were in Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church of Northville following a prayer by the Rev. Fr. John Winstock officiating. Burial was in Rural Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick died suddenly Dec. 23. She had lived in Northville since 1958 and was a member of the Livonia-Harford Theatre Guild.

Survivors are her husband, Arthur, children, Michael of California and James, Ellen, Anne, Amy and Walt, all living at home; her mother, Mrs. Cecelia McCreath of New York City; a brother, Dr. Robert McCreath of Connecticut; and sisters, Mrs. Patricia Barlow of Virginia and Mrs. Cecelia Huntington of New York City.

**RHODA BERNARD**—Services for Mrs. Bernard, 78, of 2277 Grand River, Farmington, were in Thayer Funeral Home with the Rev. Carl N. Scholz of Salem United Church of Christ of Farmington officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery.

Mrs. Bernard died Dec. 25 at Oakhill Nursing Home after a two year illness. She was a member of the Farmington River Hunting and Fishing Club and had lived in Farmington since 1934. She was a native of England.

Survivors are a daughter, Mrs. Emily Brooks of Windsor; two sisters, Mrs. Avis Blakey of Windsor and Mrs. Bertha Robinson of Ontario; and a brother, William J. Brooks of Tilbury, Ont.

**JAY B. STEVENS**—Services for Mr. Stevens, 67, of 23255 Beacon Drive, Farmington, were in Thayer Funeral Home with the Rev. George Ramsey of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington officiating. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkeley.

Mr. Stevens died Dec. 23 at Providence Hospital after a four year illness. He was a member of the Atlantic School of Music and a member of Farmington Elks Lodge 1486 and the Farmington Exchange Club. He had lived in Farmington 18 years.

Survivors are his wife, Louise; a daughter, Miss Carol Stevens of Farmington; sons, Robert J. of Westland and Dean C. of Plymouth; a sister, Mrs. Doris March of Lincoln; two brothers, Lawrence and Lloyd, both of Bay City; and one grandchild.

**CLAYTON L. TEAL**—Services for Mr. Teal, 67, of 6510 Harrison, Garden City, were in Caldwell-Mulligan Funeral Home with burial in Oakdale Memorial Cemetery. Mr. Teal died Dec. 23.

Survivors are his wife, Vera; a daughter, Mrs. Mary Joseph; brothers, Ernie and Howard; sisters, Mrs. Grace Williams and Mrs. Engle; and three grandchildren.

**HELEN M. WELCH**—Services for Mrs. Welch, 61, who lived in Farmington for 42 years before moving to Florida five years ago, were held in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with Mr. Thomas P. Beahan officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements were by Thayer Funeral Home.

Mrs. Welch died Dec. 19 in Orlando after a short illness. She was a housewife.

Survivors are her husband, Col. G. A. Welch; a daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Kerec of Ohio; sons, Burke Martin of South Carolina and James J. Martin of Florida; 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

**BRATCHER WILSON**—Services for Mr. Wilson, 61, of 2045 Hubbard, Livonia, were in Thayer Funeral Home with Elders Otto Buell and Kenneth Wilson of the Pontiac Primitive Baptist Church of Farmington officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery.

Mr. Wilson died Dec. 24 after a two year illness. He was a General Motors assembly employee, a Kentucky native and died in his late 50s.

Survivors are his wife, Isaac, a son, Cornelius of Detroit; brothers, Cornelius of Silver Lake, Ohio and Leonard of Kentucky and Balis of Union Lake, Mich.; Mrs. Levi Lee of Kentucky; Mrs. E. J. Ballew of Holly and Mrs. Curtis Cheek of Pontiac; and one grandchild.

**MARION GUDY WHITE**—Funeral services for Mr. White, 48, of 2773 Indian, Southfield, were conducted by the Rev. Robert Sechrest in Rose B. Hedberg and Son Funeral Home, Redford. Burial was in Southfield Cemetery.

Mr. White was killed in a automobile accident Dec. 24 in Westbranch. A Southfield resident for 25 years, he was an excavating contractor. He was a member of the Farmington Lodge 1515 and A.M.

He is survived by his wife, Beattie; sons, Danny and Barry; stepbrothers, Mrs. Anna White, Leoda and Hamilton; and a sister, Mrs. Stanley (Ruth) Ziemke.

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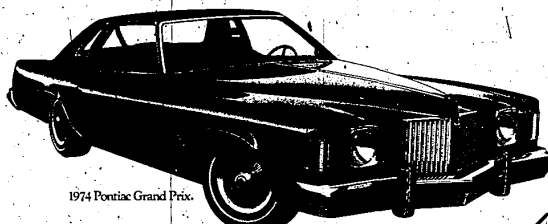
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