# editorial opinion



## A perfect Christmas gift

Five years ago I found the perfect Christmas gift for my friend of many years. Edee. She lives in southern Ohio, is a busy housewife, and mother of three young adults. Edee always has a half dozen projects under way; from refinishing a newly acquired piece of antique furniture or working on a bird sanctuary, to raising funds for some public purpose. She is one of those people who five minutes after joining a new group is elected to the board. In between all of this, she is junker-collector and her idea of a perfect Saturday afternoon is to search small dusty corner antique and secondhand stores for her special favorite: Oriental art.

secondhand stores for her special favorite: Oriental art.

She gets misty-eyed over fine clobsome, fondies carved ivory with gentle, loving hands and explains the designs of Oriental rugs with a passion that would do justice to Jennie Churchill's love life.

life.

Edee has a multi-track mind. She can pick up the threads of a conversation we left a year previous as if there had been a 15-minute interval.

"You interrupted me and I was side-tracked just as I was about to tell you what happened to Jack." she began this summer.

Before I can say how are you and who's Jack, she is off on a vivid description as I slowly recall where we were a year previous.

she is oft on a vivid description as I slowly recall where we were a year previous.

Anyway, on that 1970 Christmas shopping trip I chanced upon a lovely rosewood panel decorated with mother of pearl and metal design. It looked like brass. I am still not sure. The metal and pearl were shaved paper thin, put into flower and

branch shapes and applied to the wood. Made in Korea, it is true to the Oriental style, artfully simple in design, very moving in its uncluttered

simple in design, very moving in its uncluttered beauty.

Considering the workmanship and the pleasure it would give my friend, the price was incredible.

In the control of the control o

the whole story. And Despus.

Christmas.

Even when it was in the shop that piece of art belonged to Edee. She sensed it was hers when abo visited us.

The property of the shop that piece of art belonged to Edee. She sensed it was hers when abo visited us.

she visited us.

Now, this Christmas, after five years on loan, it is going to its rightful owner. I hope she likes it.



#### WESTWOOD SERVING ACCESSORIES

HOUSEWARES DEPT

WHILE QUANTITIES LAST

#### Fanci-foil REYNOLDS

"FANCI-FOIL" WRAP

Decorated food wrap in Blueberry, Strawberry, Wintergreen, Buttercup. 20 sq. ft. Ow Reg. 2 89c

HOUSEWARES DEPT

S3 OFF

WITH COUPON AMY & PIECE HOSTESS TUMBLER GIFT SET



#### What lies ahead in 1976?

Along with Christmas and New Year's, there is a sense of finality in

Along with Christman and Arecarding with Christman and Arecardinal to the wirter air Infinitely said and sentimental is the last own of the anomal the condition of a year. Yet there are many who will say. Yet there are many who will say. Yet there are many who will say if Good riddance to 1975, it was a travesty." There's an air of expectancy mystery, change and beginnings as the baby 1976 is about to be born What hope will it hold in its tiny fingers? What resolutions will be made and broken?

The future lies in the city where there are many faces One belongs to the mayor, the man of the people What are his dreams?

'Foor government comes about when good citizens sit to their hands.'

What are his dreams?
"Poor government comes about when good citizens sit on their hands instead of standing on their feet."—
Robert Baker. The mayor's face may be wise with life's experience. But he is only as eloquent as the citizens who stand on their feet, confident and unaf-

stand on their teet, cutuacia and arraid.

AND WHAT OF the council in the city where man's future lies? How will the seven legislate in a city harressed by freeways and trafficking and growing with lefty structures, spun of cold-drawn steel, cutting the say with geometric patterns etched against the blue?

There's a problem

Editor:
Your article in the Dec 15 issue regarding the teaching of basic skills in the Farmington schools is most timely. In industry we are finding it increasingly difficult to hire people who can express their Ideas in an intelligent manner. Even the most basic rules of grammar are either unknown

There's a great way to send holiday greetings, regardless of your faith, that doesn't cost you a thing—and yet the gift is as great as life itself. Hospitals in southeastern Michigan need 90 pirts of blood a day from the Red Cross. During this season, however, there are fewer collecting days, and Red Cross will run several thousands of pinits short—unless persons of good cheer help. Next Sunday, Dec. 28, persons between ages 17 and 65 may donate a pint blood from 10 a.m. to 5 nm at several locations.

Extend spirit of gift giving

from our readers

to young people today or are ignored by them. Hopefully, our schools in Farmington are doing a bester job than most in teaching these skills. This problem is not one which has suddenly burst on the scene. It goes back at least to the time when your writer and elditor were in achool. How else can you explain the sentence in the article "the students who need the extra classes don't take

will the people curse the buildozers of progress, the harmore's drumming, greenery turned into asphall and structures built of prefabricated dreams' will they attack the groaming noise of growth or live and love and ratise their children within their homes of brick and mortal".

Do men and worm in the city are ported in the property of the structure of of the structure

Downtown Detreit, 100 Mr.ck; Oakland County, 25900 Greenfield, Oak Park; western Wayne County, 22316 Five Mile Livonia; and west side, Vilage Plaza, 25400 Michigan, Dearborn. In addition, Livonia Mall will have hold a blood drive during the holiday season.

There's no better way to express the spirit of the season in such a direct way. When you get there, tell 'em the Observer & Eccentric sent you.

With warm holiday wishes, The Editors and Staff

# **DETECTO**

### **BATHROOM SCALE**

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Harmington Observer Eccentric

STEVE BARNABY, Editor

KENNETH F. PERRIN, Farmington

Ed. note: Correction accepted. It went by three staffers too embar-rassed to admit they need better basic skills.

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