

Quilted foot on a treaded heel with foam wedge plantation crepe sole. **'34**

Quilted foot on a treaded heel with foam wedge plantation crepe sole. **'39**

16" leather lined boot **'59**

# HANSIEL 'N GRIETTEL

## shoppe

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# The spirit's still alive

It was 200 years ago that George Washington, commander in chief of the Continental Army of the United States, crossed the Delaware River and defeated 1,400 British soldiers at Trenton, N.J.

It was about 150 years ago that the Santa Claus legend as we know it was born in a rural New England country and a small child.

But it has been some time since we remember that the spirit of Christmas has been awake in the world.

Peace on earth, good will to mankind—sometimes the spirit is sent a little, but it has always triumphed in the end.

The spirit of Christmas has many forms, usually overlapping each other.

Many are disposed to think of the season of the year as a time of religious experience with one's God and it as a time to gather the family together. Still others turn their backs on religion and religion and use the holiday as a period of solitary self-searching.

But to a man, they all regard it as a time for giving—of themselves, of appreciation, of thank.

In our society, Christmas has taken on a new meaning. The children expect, demand and usually deserve gifts. And the children repay in kind by giving presents to their elders as a means of saying, "Thank you for all you've done for me during the year."

Gifts can range from a big basket of items that take months to acquire to jars of home-made preserves that take hours to prepare.

But no matter what your taste and wallet dictate, now is the time to start thinking about it all. The sooner the preparations are begun, the easier it is to finish in the mood of Christmas—happy, rested and accomplished.

Make a list of those you want to remember. And keep the list handy because you'll remember people at the oddest hours—on the bus to work, at the lunch counter, while stringing the soup, there are the times you need people you want to put on that list.

Think about what the people in your list like, any hobbies or special interests, their tastes in clothes and jewelry, the kind of music they enjoy.

It's the little touches that make personal gifts appreciated—remembering that your child's favorite teacher spends the summer

at the seashore, you could find a book on seashells, recalling that your newspaper carrier has just gotten a new bicycle, you could find a rear view mirror.

Like this same people with the family. Of course the children are excited and happy with toys that they will be just as excited if money is used to teach them something.

Gifts of children's clothing—practical clothing—the "something special" clothes that make a boy or girl a little more of a girl or a princess.

Mother and dad should be taken for granted by the children when it comes to Christmas gifts. A little thought on the subject will tell you what they really would enjoy—a new record album, a pretty piece of jewelry, a book, a new watch, etc.

Gifts to parents should be meaningful to parents, too. But it's to be expected, isn't it? A gift to give to someone in the family who isn't taken for granted.

The key to a happy Christmas Day is advance planning. Make that list and start thinking now—and start looking now. Every store has a giveaway that that ends on you to pay with each week and stretch out your financial obligations.

It is particularly important that you start early if you plan to have something in a program of or related.

Perhaps what you want has to be in a certain color. By starting early, the store can order it for you without any last-minute jitters.

An early start is also essential for out-of-town people you want to remember. The postal service will be better able to deliver your gifts if you allow extra time.

A gift received early with a "Do not open until Christmas" label is better than one that arrives late or not at all due to carelessness or last-minute thoughtlessness. If you are going to be sending gifts overseas, it is especially important that you check with your post office for the correct mailing time.

Christmas is on a Saturday this year. Take advantage of that and shop before the Big Day to do your wrapping so you can enjoy the first festivities at ease.

Keep your own spirit up as you prepare to celebrate the spirit of Christmas in this Ebenezer year.

And in Tiny Tim's words, according to Charles Dickens, "God bless us every one!"

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