



Trees, trees, trees

Among the unusual Christmas displays in area shops this year are custom-made and custom-decorated trees in the Attic of the Village Barn in Franklin. Each tree is decorated on a particular theme such as Victorian, folk art and country American. The Attic, located upstairs in the Barn, is a familiar sight to Franklin shoppers from mid-August through mid-January. Goings on in the Attic are typical of the gala holiday festivities in Franklin Village shops which sponsor a Christmas Walk and "Candlelight Thursday Nights" between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Outside walkways are lit with candles, and a strolling Santa wanders through the stores to greet shoppers. Musical programs and choral groups are presented.

Donder, Blitzen

Continued from Preceding Page

and willingness to mate, and manage to stick together during the migration, Muller-Schwarze said. Five different glands in the hoofs, hind legs, the tail and under the eyes secrete scented fluids that send out a variety of signals.

Muller-Schwarze recently named and described the fifth gland, the caudal gland in the tail previously unknown to science. The scents emitted by the caudal gland permit reindeer cows to recognize their calves and also help to alert the herd to potential danger, he explained.

SECRECTIONS FROM the gland in their hind hoofs mark the migration route for other reindeer. "Our experiments show that this secretion is important for herd coherence — that dispersed animals find their way back to the group by sniffing for footprints."

Reindeer and caribou are members of a single widespread species, Rangifer tarandus. Some 500 years of partial management in Scandinavia and Siberia have left reindeer a semi-domestic creature, a bit smaller and lighter but with essentially the same physiology as the caribou that compose the wild herds of Rangifer tarandus found only in North America.

In 1892 reindeer from Siberia were transplanted to the Seward Peninsula region of Alaska in an effort to provide Eskimos with a new food source. Today

Alaskan reindeer number only around 30,000, some 25,000 near the Seward Peninsula. Beset by disease and parasites, Alaska's herds also lose numbers when some reindeer escape to wild caribou herds.

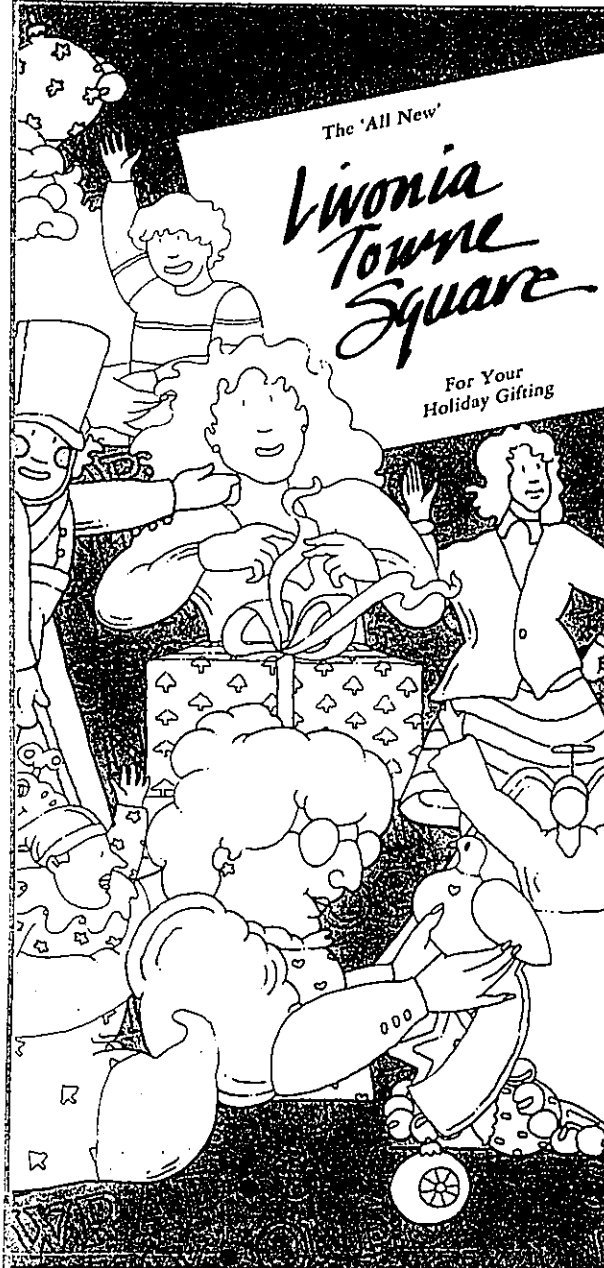
Alaska's main economic benefit from reindeer has proved to be not meat and hides, but antlers. Both sexes grow elaborate, imposing-looking antlers each year. Males naturally shed theirs after the fall rut, or breeding season; pregnant cows keep them through the spring calving season.

In June, when the antlers are in "velvet" — fully developed but not yet hardened — Alaskans harvest them to sell to Koreans and Chinese, who prize them as aphrodisiacs and use them for medicinal bases. Reindeer antlers have sold for as much as \$50 a pound.

Do Eskimos also believe antlers make them virile?

"During roundup, I used to see Eskimos take the tip of the horn — nice, soft, and juicy — and eat it. Those old-time herders had lots of children," recalled a herd manager near Nome.

The Saami, also known for large families, refuse to cut the antlers, but make use of the rest of the reindeer: the milk and meat for food, the skins for tents, bedding, clothing and shoes, and the naturally shed antlers for carving native objects.



LIVONIA TOWNE SQUARE

You'll enjoy holiday shopping at...

- Marshalls
- Accents Fashion Jewelry
- Famous Footwear
- Linen Center
- Peck's Menswear

Watch for more exciting stores opening soon

LIVONIA MALL



7 MILE & MIDDLEBELT

N

MIDDLEBELT