



down to earth

**Alice
Burlingame**

Ideas to make holidays special

This is the time when we become conscious of the limited days before the holiday celebrations. It happens every year.

Old friends, living far away, become an important part of our daily thoughts, and we realize a good friend is worth more than an engraved signature.

It is time to get in touch with distant friends whether by note or telephone. An early start is rewarding as the calendar ticks away toward Dec. 25.

Bring special trimmings out early to become part of the holiday tradition. Old toys become heirlooms to be enjoyed year after year. Begin early to decorate your home because December is a period of remembrance. Loving concern for others and remembering traditions to live and relive each Christmas are all part of the season.

As for gift selections, fit the choice to the receiver. If you happen to be a homemaker, there is nothing more welcome than homemade cookies with a few fancy "sweets" in the gift package.

COOKIES CAN be made now and stored in the deep freezer for use on a pretty cookie plate for unexpected guests, as well as a surprise gift as you call on a friend. At this date in the month, the homemaker can be a

"squirrel," as she prepares her cooking talents.

In our community we have garden enthusiasts who would enjoy a poinsettia, flowering bulbs for indoors, or an order for the future delivery of a tree, shrub, or sundry nursery stock. For the latter choice, I will be glad to answer questions on such a selection if you telephone me.

In our community there are several places where you can get stationery printed with the name of the receiver (a gift selection). There are many art galleries on Woodward Avenue which will be open for browsing and gift selection including the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association at 1516 South Cranbrook, Birmingham.

Next week your columnist will give a variety of book selection ideas. Tickets for Orchestra Hall or the Ford Auditorium make an excellent gift for the music-minded.

One of the finest holiday adventures is to plan to go to Greenfield Village, to enjoy an old fashioned sleigh ride and visit some of the homes in the village to see them prepare cookies and other goodies traditional in the early years. Also, Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village has unlimited sights for visitors to enjoy.

Still, what really counts is that friendly call that says, "come over and spend an evening with us."

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, on 12 Mile Road east of Farmington Road, will conduct a special Children's Christmas Service at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, in the church. All children enrolled in the Sunday School will participate, and the community is invited to attend.

The theme selected for this special worship encounter is "Jesus, King of Love." In addition to the traditional Christmas carols, the children will enact the coming of the Christ Child, fully costumed to dramatize the event. Individual and group speaking parts will also be utilized in the presentation. At a given point in the service, the

children will come forward with gifts of toys, games, mittens and socks and place them before a crèche, symbolizing their willingness to follow Christ's plea. "For as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my children, ye have done it unto Me." These special gifts, received at the manger, will be presented to the Lutheran Child and Family Service of Detroit.

In addition to the gifts, an offering will be given to the Detroit agency.

A display of posters, banners and pennants on standards depicting Christmas will be positioned in the sanctuary. Elizabeth Marics, chairperson of the Christmas service project, together

with the pastor and members of the Board of Christian Education at Prince of Peace, invite the community to participate in the Christmas service this year. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Two special Candle Light Services are planned for Christmas Eve at 7:30 and 11 p.m. Assisting the pastor in the 7:30 service will be the senior choir under the direction of Charlotte Eberhard

and seminarian Brant Engel, a member of the congregation completing his final year at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Other special opportunities to worship during the season include a Christmas Morning Songfest at 10 a.m., in which college students from the congregation will be involved, and a New Year's Eve Eucharistic Service at 7:30 p.m.

Mercy teens musical

Mercy High School students present their "Musical Celebration of Christmas" at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, in the school auditorium on 11 Mile and Middlebelt.

The first half of the program lists traditional carols sung by The Mercycyals; a comic song for youngsters called "Little Things that Creep and Crawl and Swim and Sometimes Fly" sung by the Freshman Chorus; and Christmas Concerto by Corelli, plus compositions by Bach, Beethoven and Mozart played by the Mercy orchestra.

The second half of the concert will be devoted to a cycle of carols arranged by the contemporary English composer John Rutter. "Dancing Day" was first

performed in 1974. Larry Teevens, head of the school's music department, calls the piece "a beautiful blend of boy and women's voices that completely captures the joy and awe of Christmas."

When the Mercy High School Concert Choir joined Wayne State University Women's Chorus for the premiere Michigan performance of "Dancing Day" early this month, the piece was recorded for possible release by Audio Graphic Services.

The "Hallelujah Chorus" is the traditional finale for Mercy High's musical celebration, when all alumnae are invited to sing with the students.

Tickets are sold at the door.

Cookie sale under way

Each year the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (which serves adults as well as children) sponsors a Holiday Cookie Sale to support research and patient service programs throughout the state.

The annual fund-raiser is now in full swing with many convenient, local pick-up points in the Detroit area. The foundation is selling a 25-ounce, assortment of fancy chocolate and butter cookies, packed in an exclusively designed Currier & Ives reusable tin. The cookies are hand-packed in paper cups to eliminate breakage and each tin is

shrink-wrapped with clear plastic for protection. Cookies sell for \$7 a tin and are packed with 12 tins per case.

Cookies can be ordered by calling Children's Leukemia Foundation main office in Southfield at 553-8322.

The foundation is currently giving more than \$350,000 annually to research projects to find the cause, cure and treatment of leukemia and related blood disorders.

The annual sale helps to supplement the foundation's United Way, Torch Drive allocation each year.

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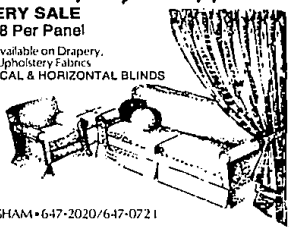
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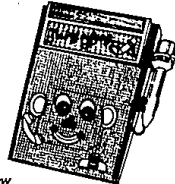
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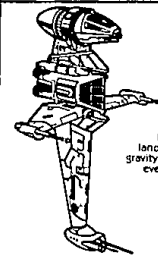
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