

# Mailing it

## Postal Service provides tips

You've waited until the last few days before Christmas and you want to be sure your present will arrive in time. What can you do?

You can choose from Express Mail Next Day Service or Priority Mail. And they're available locally.

"With Express Mail service, customers can reach a large number of cities overnight," Farmington Postmaster Kenneth Harris said. "You can mail a package one day and have it reach the addressee by 3 p.m. the following day."

Customers also have the option of having their Express Mail package available for claim at the destination post office by 10 a.m. the next business day.

Express Mail offers weekend and Christmas Day delivery to the addressee at no extra charge. From here, Harris said most cities can be reached via the Express Mail Next Day Service network.

Items weighing up to 70 pounds can be sent by Express Mail. The service includes merchandise insurance coverage up to \$500 at no additional charge. Also, the sender can apply for a full refund of postage if a

shipment is late.

A package weighing up to two pounds mailed from here costs \$10.75 for delivery to the addressee.

Contact the Post Service for information about cities that can be reached from here via Express Mail Service.

**PRIORITY MAIL** affords first-class handling for packages weighing over 12 ounces and up to 70 pounds.

It's fast and consistent, offering next-day delivery up to 150 miles from the originating post office and delivery in three days anywhere in the United States, Harris said.

"It's the ideal service for people who want prompt package delivery yet would like to avoid the higher cost of Express Mail Next Day Service," he added.

Priority Mail can be sent from any post office, station or branch or through rural carriers to any address in the United States and even to foreign countries. The service is available with insurance, return re-

ceipts, cash on delivery, certificates of mailing and special delivery.

**TO ASSURE** delivery of every package and card by Wednesday, Dec. 24, the Postal Service offers these tips:

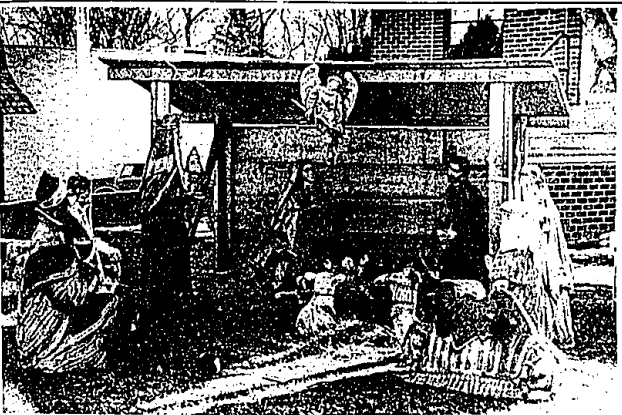
• Write legibly. Include the ZIP Code in the outgoing and return address.

• Include your name and address on a slip on the inside of all parcels, as well as putting it on the outside. You do not need to wrap boxes in paper.

• Close all parcels securely with the following recommended tapes: Pressure sensitive, reinforced paper tapes, reinforced pressure sensitive. Do not use cellophane or masking tape, or tie packages with cord.

Christmas stamps are on sale at the Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices.

Postal products make good gifts. Ask the window clerk about inexpensive stamp collecting kits, Harris said.



BOB SKLAR/staff photographer

## Sign of the season

This Nativity scene was put up Saturday on the front lawn of the American Legion Grove-Walker Post 346 at 31775 Grand River, Farmington. In some Detroit-area communities — Birmingham the most notable — creches have become the focus of dispute

when placed in front of the city hall. In dispute in those communities is whether religious symbols such as creches belong on public property. The American Legion hall, of course, is private property.

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Christmas in the Country

## Hills talent plays in Yule concerts

Guest artist Rosemary Clooney was the headliner, but Farmington Hills was well represented at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Christmas Pop Series last weekend at Ford Auditorium.

Detective Jerry McKenzie of the Farmington Hills Police Department played the drums as part of a trio that accompanied the symphony when Clooney sang.

The Merceyals from Farmington Hills Mercey High School sang holiday music during their part of the three two-hour concerts, held Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"It was magnificent. She was pure delight. She's a true professional," said McKenzie about Clooney, who often taps local talent for her pre-Christmas shows.

Clooney not only "has a happy air about her," but also "is just plain and simply fun to work with. And

she's a super nice person," he added.

**McKENZIE**, WHO has played the drums since age 6, is a professional musician. He's part of a contemporary jazz group that performs at weddings, bar mitzvahs and other social events. It also has played at Cobo Hall and in nightclubs.

The Merceyals recently marked their 25th anniversary. They're a select group of the all-girls school's singers, dancers and instrumentalists who perform around metropolitan Detroit throughout the year.

Last December, the self-supporting troupe backed up Clooney at her pre-Christmas shows at the Premier Center in Sterling Heights.

McKenzie last performed with Clooney in June at the Midland Center for the Performing Arts. He was part of a quartet.

## K mart spreads goodwill to kids

The two Farmington-area stores joined 2,100 K marts nationwide in opening their doors early on Dec. 13 to bring Christmas cheer to 42,000 underprivileged children.

This is the second Christmas shopping spree sponsored by K mart's Good News Committees, groups of employee volunteers.

At 8 a.m. needy children took to the aisles of K mart stores across the country and spent \$400,000 on gifts for their families, friends and themselves.

Each child will be allowed to pick out \$20 worth of merchandise of their choice. In addition, children were treated to breakfast and a gift-wrapped present from Santa.

K mart employees, who volunteered their early morning time, assisted kids with gift selections and

with staying within their budget.

**LOCALLY**, THE K mart stores on Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile, in Farmington Hills and on Grand River and Halsted in Farmington each sponsored 20 needy children. Additional children were sponsored by community organizations.

According to K mart's chairman, Bernard Fauber, holding the shopping spree for a second year was important for the children in each community where there is a K mart store.

K mart Good News Committees are organized by employees in each store. The committees are actively involved in year-round outreach programs in the communities surrounding their K mart stores.

## O&E sports... your guide to local scores

**Petland**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good  
this year. I would  
like to have a puppy  
from Petland. The  
black one with the  
white markings paws  
and some new fish  
and a train set and  
some skates.  
Love XX,  
Jason

P.S. If you can't  
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