

Try these if you're tired of ties and toys

If you're bored with neckties, scarves, socks, designer leisure togs and fruit cakes, here are some local products to lighten your heart and please the recipient.

The fourth edition of "Bed & Breakfast" by Norma Stephens Buzan of Bloomfield Hills, \$13.95, covers B & B's in Hawaii, Canada and Mexico as well as continental United States. This expanded edition includes small inns, guest houses, reservation services, easy to find listings and solid information about each plus many pictures and illustrations. To order, call Buzan, 646-5357 or write Betsy Ross Publications, 2057 Betsy Ross Drive, Bloomfield Hills, 48013. Michigan residents should add \$3.53 sales tax.

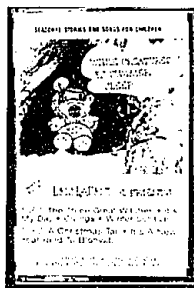
Lois La Fond has a second tape for children, "While Creatures of Summer Sleep," available at Borders and Birmingham Bookstore. Her first one, "I Am Who I Am," came out about a year ago.

La Fond, who lived and performed in the metropolitan area before settling in Boulder, Colo. still has lots of family and friends here. This new one, heavier on the story telling than the first, should still appeal to kids 3-10. Me? I still like the music on the first one. The tapes are \$4.95 each. Send mail orders to Boulder Children's Productions, Box 4712, Boulder, Co. 80306.

If you cherish beautiful antique porcelain and crystal, but don't want to mortgage the farm to buy some, the reproductions of museum treasures by Mildred Mottahedeh may be your answer. They are available



Norma Stephens Buzan has included more information about some charming out-of-the-way inns as well as bed-and-breakfast stops in this latest edition of her popular book.



Lois LaFond uses many children on her second tape of songs and stories about make-believe people and creatures.

at Lois Wright, Inc., 201 S. Woodward, Birmingham. The Mottahedeh pieces, produced in a network of factories around the world, are repros from Winterthur, Historic Charleston, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Paris Museum of Decorative Arts. Prices are in the \$100-200 range.

"Prescription for Living," Dr. Birmingham psychotherapist, Dr.

Dorothy Wagner, is a 5 by 7 spiral notebook, suitable for propping on the bathroom or kitchen counter or on the breakfast table. Each page has a one-sentence psychologically-oriented nugget presented in attractive, non-invasive handwriting. Available at \$6.99 at Tin Soldier of Birmingham, 1 Browne St. West Bloomfield, Birmingham Bookstore

and Pages and Pages of Farmington Hills.

If vintage jewelry, clothes and accessories sound interesting, then pop up the stairs at 124 S. Woodward and find a quiet little world of shops. Kathy Rae's Antiques, the newest, has vintage jewelry, pottery and an assortment of art and accessories.

And in line with general shopping resources, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association's annual Christmas pottery sale is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Saturday.

"Tonquish Tales," volume 2 by Helen Frances Gilbert of Plymouth, is out in paperback at Birmingham Bookstore and Borders among others. Gilbert, longtime journalism teacher and avid student of local history from the time of the French and Indians, has compiled columns she did for the Plymouth Observer under the same title and published them herself under Plymouth Heritage Press.

As she describes the life of early Detroit under the French she mentions the reportedly delicious pear trees which grew to nine feet in diameter. She wonders if there are any descendants of those old trees still around. Gilbert likes to leave her readers with subtle suggestions like this for independent exploration.

Because these were columns first, some of the time transitions are hard to follow unless you pay attention. But, this picture of early Michigan is pleasantly painted and easy to read with a good bibliography. This one is broader in historical scope than volume 1.



Candlesticks are Mottahedeh reproductions of a pair from the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Chinese originals are from the Kang HSI dynasty, circa 1700.

For kids, "Christmas Joy," by Clark of Oxford did the pictures. Cummings' books, available at many area stores, have been runaway favorites ever since she published "Christmas Ribbons" in 1979.

Poinsettias flourish with good care

Many readers will send or receive poinsettias for the holidays. As you know, this plant comes from Mexico. We would like to share one of the stories of its origin.

On Christmas Eve long ago, Pepita was sad. This little Mexican girl wanted more than anything to give a fine present to the Christ Child at the church service that evening. But she was very poor and had no gift.

As she walked sorrowfully to church, her cousin, Pedro tried to console her.

"Pepita," he said, "I am certain that even the most humble gift, given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes."

So Pepita gathered a bouquet of common weeds from the roadside and entered the church. As she approached

the altar, her spirits lifted. She forgot the humbleness of her gift as she placed it tenderly at the feet of the Christ Child. Then the miracle happened. Pepita's ordinary weeds turned brilliant red. They were called *coche buena*, flowers of the holy night. We call them poinsettias.

Give the poinsettia plant in your home a sunny window, constant temperature and plenty of water. You can enjoy this lovely plant for many months if you follow some simple steps.

1. Place the plant near a window or in a location with good natural light. Keep it moist. As the weather warms up, the plant will put out new growth, usually it still holds some of its colorful bracts. As the bract color

fades, cut the stems back. New shoots will develop. If your plant isn't in prime condition after the holidays, prune it back leaving two or three leaf nodes per stem.

2. The plant may be pinched or pruned back during the growing season to control size and symmetry.

3. Feed your poinsettia plant regularly at three to four day intervals. Follow directions on the fertilizer label.

4. Your poinsettia will remain green all winter if it is left exposed to household light at night.

Here are some books your gardening friends will welcome.

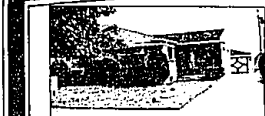
"The American Woman's Garden," Verey and Samuels, \$35, contains a series of colored pictures of

gardens done by professionals. The way to increase your knowledge is to study pictures of successful gardens. This book is superb and is an excellent gift.

"New Zealand, a Special Place" Landsdown Press, \$21.95, is a wonderful gift for someone planning a trip to New Zealand. It gives good descriptions of places to stay and towns to enjoy. The pictures are outstanding.

"Decorating with Plants," Susan Condon and Terrence Conran, \$19.95, is about creating a focal point in a room with groupings of plants. One of the many helpful bits of information concerns the light factor in your rooms. There are chapters on indoor and outdoor plant groupings and solid instructional material.

down to earth Alice Burlingame



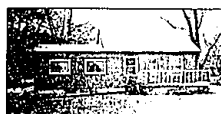
NORTH ROYAL OAK BEAUTY.
A quality home with much to offer. Featuring 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, central air, finished basement. Enclosed porch and 2 car garage. Asking \$43,500.
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COUNTRY LIVING—FARMINGTON HILLS
Quad-level with private yard, heated garage, family room with driftstone fireplace plus den, large country kitchen, much more. Only \$58,800. GR.
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Beautiful contemporary on ½ acre. Totally rebuilt in '84, great room with free standing fireplace, cathedral ceiling and skylights, deck off master bedroom. Decorator perfect. \$118,000 AL.
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GREAT BEGINNINGS!
Delightful is the way to describe this cheery charmer! Freshly decorated, 3 bedrooms, sunken family room with deck, dining area, 2 car garage. Close to X-ways. \$54,900 SA.
EKR/MAPLE WEST, INC. 553-5888



LAKE FRONT BRENDEL LAKE
Fantastic setting on all sports lake surrounds lovely brick ranch with walk-out rec room. Loaded with luxury amenities. Priced to sell at only \$149,900.
EKR/MIDWEST, INC. 477-0880



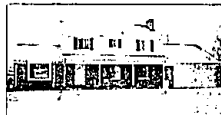
BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS
and Wing Lake privileges. Five bedrooms, 2 baths, possible separate suite. Family room, two fireplaces, 2200 square feet. Possible quick occupancy. Asking \$149,900.
EKR/BIRMINGHAM 645-5800



FARMINGTON HILLS BEAUTY
Immaculate 4 bedroom, 2½ bath colonial on beautiful tree lot, pleasing neutral decor with many more newer features including gorgeous contemporary kitchen, in-ground pool for family fun, see it today. \$139,900 MI.
EKR/W. BLOOMFIELD 855-9100



LAPEER TOWNSHIP
1834 Historical country home and guest house on approximately 8 acres off Winn Lake. Salon, central air/central, 3 bedrooms, family room, library and Euro-style pub. \$189,800 PE.
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IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY - WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOLS
Enjoy country living in this affordable colonial. 3 bedrooms, possible 4th in basement, family room with fireplace, new neutral carpet and kitchen floor, 2 car garage. \$116,900 ST.
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SHARP COLONIAL FARMINGTON HILLS
Offers 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, family room with fireplace, basement, attached garage and nice lot. Appliances included. A great value at only \$73,200.
EKR/MIDWEST, INC. 477-0880



WALK TO COUNTRY DAY.
Lovely 6 bedroom Colonial. Over 2 acres with river frontage. Walk-out lower level with fireplace. Everything a cook could ask for in the Lenore kitchen. Nowhere carpeting and lots of updating. Asking \$158,000.
EKR/BIRMINGHAM 645-5800



CONTEMPORARY LAKEFRONT LIVING
West Bloomfield private all sports lakefront custom quality built home, elegant neutral decor. Call for details. \$295,000 LA.
EKR/W. BLOOMFIELD 855-9100



GREAT FAMILY HOME
Inviting and spacious with terrific floor plan for family with varied interests. 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2½ car garage. Bloomfield Hills Schools. Creative financing possible through owner. \$248,000 WA.
EKR/MAPLE 642-6500



COUNTRY LIVING IN THE CITY
In West Bloomfield with Birmingham Schools. Move-in condition 3 bedroom colonial with family room, fireplace, attached 2 car garage. Priced to sell.
EKR/MAPLE WEST, INC. 553-5888



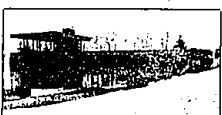
DOUBLE LOT FARMINGTON HILLS
Surrounds spacious Cape Cod style colonial. Three bedrooms, plus den, formal dining room, basement, large garage. Lots of house for only \$55,900.
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BIRMINGHAM AFFORDABLE.
Light and airy three bedrooms, rich hardwood floors. Recent roof, furnace, electrical. Summer porch and treed yard. Motivated seller. \$94,900.
EKR/BIRMINGHAM 645-5800



ESTATE HOME—CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
one of a kind 3-story Tudor, slate roof, copper gutters, leaded windows. 5 bedrooms on 2½ acres, overlooking a private pond plus railroad caboose could be cabana. 3 car garage. \$795,000 OP.
EKR/W. BLOOMFIELD 855-9100



WHAT A DREAM!
Fabulous Don Paul Young contemporary. 5,000 square feet in North Vabook overlooking private lake. 4 bedrooms, 2 full and 2½ baths, library and play room. Call Lise Jasky for numerous details. \$849,000 WE.
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MOTIVATED SELLERS
Almost new Bi-Level. Close to Twelve Oaks Mall and freeway. Novi Schools. Walked Lake access.
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SUBURBAN WEST REDFORD BRICK RANCH
Offers 3 bedrooms, modern kitchen with large eating area, spacious living room and huge lot. A great starter at only \$35,900.
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MAPLE OFFICE
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31715 Grand River
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