

A sampling of yule gifts

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trying to wean the kids away from TV. The Old Detroit Shop's collection of copies of antique children's books is fascinating and tempting, at \$4.50-\$9.95. Titles include "The Night Before Christmas," of course, and a Christmas children's alphabet, where every letter represents as a Christmas motif.

IF YOU just can't wait for Christmas, don't. Head for Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, "The World's Largest Christmas Store," in Frankenmuth, where it's Christmas 361 days a year.

The one-acre Bronner's salesroom offers two million visitors a year over 50,000 items and gifts. There are 260 decorated Christmas trees displaying some of the 6,000 styles of ornaments, every evening from dusk to midnight, a 1/2-mile Christmas Lane comes to life with thousands of twinkling lights. All are invited to bring their cameras.

"Smaller Christmas trees are very trendy," Maria Bronner said. "It's because there are more single homes and because living spaces generally are

becoming smaller. Also, people would rather have a small real tree than a plastic full-sized one. We're stocking miniature ornaments of all kinds — ceramic, glass, wood — for the smaller trees."

There's a bigger variety of lights this year, and lights that blink and play seasonal music are available. \$25-\$72. There's a string of 100 lights that plays 21 carols, caroling bells for your mantle, stair railing or the front porch, and a tree top star that plays carols.

Lights in motion are more complex than formerly: instead of just flickering on and off, they flicker in a set pattern. An ornament (three for \$10.95) plugs into the tree lights and makes an individual ornament rotate.

Bronner's stocks a large variety of Advent wreaths. "They've always been popular in Germany and Austria," Bronner said. "And they're becoming more popular in the United States every year. The wreaths come with four different candles, one for each Sunday of Advent."

Prices start at \$15.95.

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