

Scan this sampler of Christmas gifts

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If you aren't able to go to Frankemuth to bask in the holiday spirit, a mail order catalog is available

FOOD BASKETS used to be the ugly ducklings of the gift industry. But all that has changed, says Stan Fishman of Birmingham's Quarton Market. "The nice thing about a gift basket is that it is designed specifically to suit the tastes of every family member.

"For Christmas holidays, we can include an imported plum pudding, either ready-to-eat, or cook-it-yourself,

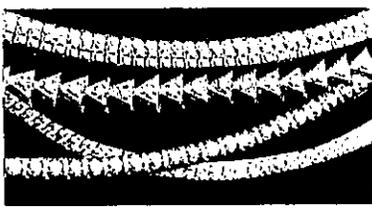
gourmet candy canes; and fruit bars, more like cake with fruit than like fruitcake. There has to be holiday fruit: the big navel oranges that are associated with Christmas stockings and Christmas morning, red Delicious and green Granny Smith apples and pears (no partridge).

"We can include a bottle of wine in holiday wrap, and a "designer" basket of grapevines or wicker can be re-used in the home. Of course, the basket is wrapped appropriately, with holly and ribbon trim."

Prices start at \$50; they stop where your imagination ends.

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Happy Holidays

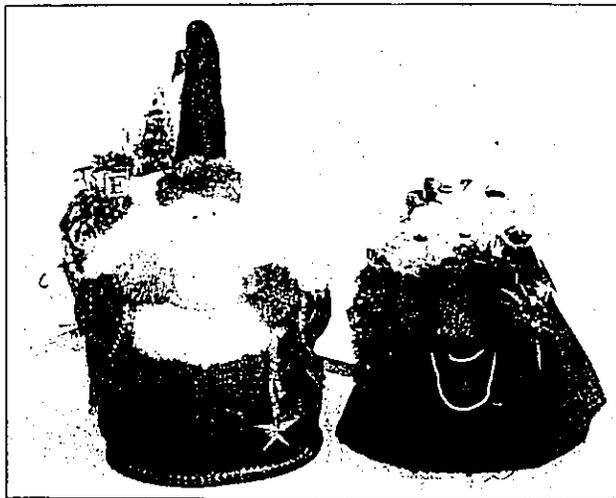
- Holiday Spirits
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JOHN STORMZAND/staff photographer

Created by Apple Whimseys, Mr. and Mrs. Santa reign supreme at The Mole Hole of Birmingham.



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