

Christmas Potpourri

WELL-CHOSEN GIFTS

1973 may be the year we all learn how to make a little glitter go a long way.

Ever-rising prices are an excellent reason why we should stop trying to outspend our budgets at this time of year.

Why feel that we must give the most lavish present ever, to prove our love and devotion? A well-chosen small gift conveys the same message — especially when the giver puts her own time and talents into the creation.

CAPPING THE LIST of fashion accessories wanted by every female this season is: a knitted cap. Pattern books will give you dozens of ideas for jiffy caps to knit or crochet. To give the cap a Christmasy look, choose a yarn that's spangled with silver or gold.

A GRANDMOTHER OR A TEEN-AGER would love a handmade shawl. Use huge needles, and you'll whiz along. White is the best color because it goes over anything, all year long. For a tweedy effect, knit with two threads at once — one in white, and one in the recipient's favorite basic shade such as navy or camel.

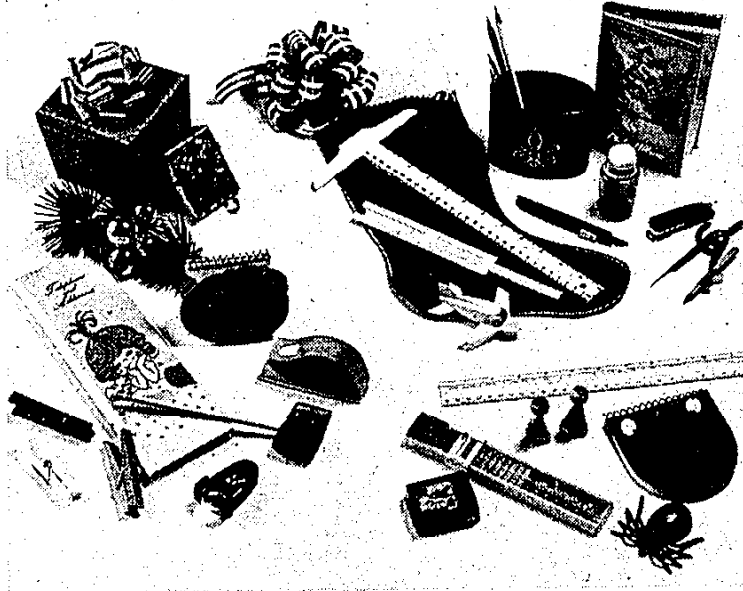
GLAMOUR GIRLS on your gift list will adore a box of eye-shadow powder in one of the new silvery or goldspun colors. Choose a fairly neutral shade of silver or gold, and it can be worn over any other eye-shadow color. Thus, the glamour girl gets the most mileage from your money.

Is there an old fur piece around that's worn out its welcome? Salvage enough for collar and cuffs to sew on a bulky cardigan. If you don't know how to sew skins, get a book on the subject, or ask your furrier for a lesson.

THE FUR-TRIMMED CARDIGAN, all the rage in Paris, may be too divine to give away. In that case, make it your own personal Christmas wrap!

Keep holiday entertaining in proportion too. Instead of buying an expensive hostess gown, treat yourself to a new hairstyle. One of the fluffy new cap cuts will make last year's dress look entirely different. Add a little glitter for evenings with long rhinestone earrings, lots of dazzle for the dollars.

The more you try to keep Christmas in proportion, the merrier it can be. Just remember that red belongs on hollyberries, not in your check-book.



FUN, FUNCTIONAL GIFTS at \$1 or less from the stationery department can make Christmas stocking stuffing an inexpensive, one-stop shopping affair.

YULE STOCKING STUFFERS

A grab bag of fun-filled Christmas spirit — that's a stuffed Christmas stocking.

No other Yuletide custom offers so many opportunities for imaginative gift-giving, whether you're aiming your gifts for fun, usefulness, or both. Why not hang a stocking for every member of the family, then set a \$1 limit on the price of any gift dropped in. That way, you can afford to let even the youngsters get in on the shopping, and watch their Christmas spirits soar.

An often overlooked, bountiful source of \$1-or-less stocking stuffers for the entire family is your local stationery store or the stationery department of the five-and-dime or department store. With the wide variety of "fun and functional" items available there, stocking stuffer shopping can be an inexpensive one-stop affair.

FOR THE YOUNGSTERS, there are pencil sharpeners in all shapes and colors. Novelty pencil sharpeners shaped like spiders, TV sets or airplanes are sure to please any school youngster. You might even find one of the small plastic pencil sharpeners that sells for only a nickel — the same price it sold for when it first was offered in 1946!

A combination sharp-

ener/ruler/pencil box with a multiplication table printed on top and a couple of pencils inside sells for only 39 cents. For the little girl in the family, you might put a smile on her face as she corrects her mistakes by giving her erasers made in the shape of tiny Oriental dolls.

Stuff Dad's stocking with a \$1-or-less pen-and-pencil caddy with a built-in sharpener or a stapler set, T-square, slide rule and staple remover to make his home office work easier.

FOR MOM, there are novelty note pads and magnetic memo holders for use in the kitchen, or a small photo album to keep all those memory-filled Christmas photographs in order.

And you're bound to please the teenage girl in your family with a telephone and address book or a one-year diary, complete with lock and key.

Among the many other stationery store stocking stuffers meeting the \$1 limit are handy hand-size adding machines for Mother's grocery shopping, pocket dictionaries, and an almost limitless variety of other budget-priced gifts that you'll probably find your family still using when Christmas rolls around again next year.

CRANBERRY GINGERBREAD HOUSE

2 packs (14½ oz. each) gingerbread mix
 ⅔ c Ocean Spray cranberry - orange relish from a 14 oz. jar
 1 pack. (6½ oz.) vanilla buttercream frosting
 Flaked coconut
 Candy fruit slices
 Fresh cranberries
 Sugar wafers
 Ice cream cones
 Green food coloring

Prepare gingerbread according to package directions for cookies, using cranberry-orange relish instead of water. Roll out and cut into 4 oblongs 9x5 inches and 2 oblongs 8x6 inches. Cut corners from top of 8" sides to make peak of roof. Bake as directed, and cool. Cut cardboard same size as cookies, and tape together to form house.

Frost box lightly and press cookies against sides and roof. Put on a platter, sprinkle coconut "snow" and frost doors and windows. Let dry several hours. Frost roof and press overlapping rows of fruit slices in place. Pipe frosting around roof edges, pressing cranberries into it.

Make a fence with halved wafers and cranberries pressed into a ring of frosting. Inverted cones covered with green-tinted frosting studded with cranberries become trees.



PREFAB GINGERBREAD house made with mixes!