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Patronize our Advertisers

DO'S AND DON'TS AT THE P. O. BOXES, OLD CHRISTMAS FAD

Thoughtfulness on Part of Patrons of Uncle Sam Will Assist Clerks and Carriers.

DON'T put off mailing that package until Christmas eve. Don't neglect to tie it properly. It is handled at least five times before it reaches its destination.

Don't forget to write your own return address on all parcel post matter. Don't guess at the postage and give your friends the pleasure of paying "postage due."

Don't plaster Red Cross stamps on the face of packages or letters; take care not to "seal" parcel post packages with them. It raises the rate.

Don't forget that a little thoughtfulness on your part can help to make Christmas happier for Uncle Sam's men, his horses and his automobiles. Do mail early, preferably before December 20th, writing on your packages: "Not to be opened until Christmas."

Do your best to use the post offices in the forenoon, the earlier the better. Do write legibly, both the address to which you are sending the gift and your own return address.

Do be courteous and "Christmassy" to the post office men who serve you. They are handling thousands of pieces of mail matter.

Do be brief at the counter. You keep someone else waiting if you are loaded like an express truck, with packages and foolish questions.

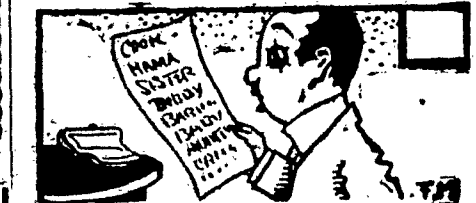
THINGS THE BOYS LONG FOR

Youngsters Prefer Toys or Contrivances to Test Their Muscular Skill or Endurance.

WHAT shall be said of that blundering kindness of home folk that considers giving the boy only presents of such things as he actually needs? It is an outrage upon the spirit of Christmas to present him with new shoes, ties, handkerchiefs—something that he knows he will get anyway—when his sleeping and waking dreams for weeks before have been filled with visions of tops, balls, guns and magic lanterns, says Maude Souder in the Woman's Home Companion. The most beautiful knitted muffler woman's fingers ever constructed cannot compare with a jack-knife with four blades and a cork-screw attachment, when exhibited over the back fence to a neighbor boy on Christmas morning. Very soon after the days of kills a boy reaches the age when he yearns with his whole soul after any toy or contrivance that will test his muscular skill or endurance. At this age an appropriate present would be a rawhide or rope lariat, such as is used by the Buffalo Bill riders. A pair of hand or arm stiffs will be received with equal favor, and in the same category comes a new fishing rod, snow shoes, tennis racket, golf clubs, a good ball, lamp or cyclometer for his wheel, or even a live pet, a new dog, a pair of rabbits or guinea pigs—something that he can pet and train for his own.

Funny Christmas Habit.

There is not a drug store, cigar shop or barroom in the larger cities which has not been made the storage room for Christmas presents bought before the rush sets in. The strange part of it is that every man who utilizes the friendship of his favorite place round the corner thinks he is the only one who thought of the plan. Realizing that the stores will be crowded, many far-sighted heads of families bought their presents a week in advance, and then, fearing the nature of the mysterious package would be discovered at the office or at home, they hid upon the device of making a cache in some resort near home.



ANNUALLY
Toys for little Willies,
Something for the cook;
Make, with forty other things
The empty pocketbook.

Plants for Christmas.

Other things being equal, it is better to buy plants near one's home than to travel afar. Do not be tempted, even by cheap offers, to go miles away, for counting car fares, packing, expressage and lost time, the ultimate cost is very likely to be more than if you paid a good deal higher price at home. Of course it may happen that one grower or florist has a large stock of some one thing and can sell at a low rate, but dealers usually have an understanding with one another especially regarding holiday prices, and for weeks before the holiday season they have been balancing stock with each other, so that the better quality plants are of an almost fixed value.

Christmas in Days of Yore.

There are many old and stately ceremonies and many historical events connected with Christmas that are well worth perusing, and that give us glimpses of ye ancient times when our fathers and our fathers' forefathers celebrated and revelled and gave of their abundance to those for whom nothing was prepared.

Ancient Custom at One Time Developed Into Demand as Right and Became Nuisance.

THE bestowal of Christmas boxes is of great antiquity, and was formerly the bounty of well disposed persons who were willing to contribute something toward the industrious. Later the gift came to be demanded as a right and became somewhat of a nuisance. Long ago the Roman Catholic priests had masses for everything, and if a ship went to the West Indies they had a box in her under the protection of some patron saint, into which the sailors put money or other valuables in order to secure the prayers of the church. At Christmas these boxes were opened and were hence called Christmas boxes. In England the day after Christmas is known as "Boxing day," from the Christmas boxes which used to be in circulation, and in the British museum can be seen boxes covered with green glaze with a slit in the side for money and presents.

CHRISTMAS BAG FOR GUESTS

Container for Presents Attached to Backs of Chairs With Bow of Red Satin Ribbon.

THE Christmas bag is an innovation planned by one housekeeper. The breakfast table is to be decorated with a star by holly sprigs, and with a slender cut glass vase in the center holding red chrysanthemums. Long-stemmed flowers also radiate from the central star with the blossoms toward the plates of those for whom the flowers are intended. Every napkin lies beneath a Christmas card with a sprig of holly tied upon it with red ribbon, and to the back of every chair is tied a bag with a big red satin bow. The bags are of all sizes, and each is full of individual gifts. One is an opera bag, another a shopping bag in black and gold, still another is brown leather and gold nailheads, another a bag for colgars and cuffs, another a gay laundry bag, one is suggestive of the scraps grandmother will put into it, and the other of books that a small girl will carry to school. All are as dainty and fine as careful workmanship and good materials can make them, and there will be fun emptying the materials out of the various bags.

Differ on Christ's Birthday

THE early Christmas were divided as to the date on which the nativity of Christ should be celebrated. Some of these celebrated it on the first or sixth of January, other groups observed September 29 and still another March 29. As early as the fourth century, however, the period of the new year had been generally accepted as the time for celebrating Christ's birth. The Western branch of the church observed December 25 and the Eastern church January 6. Finally it was decided that all should celebrate December 25. Pope Julius I, who presided in the first half of the fourth century, is credited with having set the date.

Roses at Christmas.

The fact that we can get flowers out of doors at Christmas time is in itself a sufficient justification for growing the Christmas rose, but besides that it is worth growing for itself, says Country Life in America. Its large white flowers, fully two inches across, resembling those of a giant single rose, although as a matter of fact it belongs to the same family as the buttercup, never fail to excite enthusiasm in the season of snow and ice. The plant itself grows only six to eight inches high, and the large, greenish-white flowers are borne in clusters and nestle closely among the dark green leaves.

Novel Christmas Salad Bowl.

By the time that the salad course arrives at the Christmas dinner all that surround the festive board are apt to be warm. It will be refreshing to see the salad come to the table in a block of ice. Smooth the ice square with a hot flat iron and make a cavity in the center with the same utensil. Border with crisp lettuce and sprigs of holly and fill with salad. Place the block on several thicknesses of cloth or a deep platter and put around it a wreath of holly.

DO IT EARLY

Big — Doing your Christmas shopping now? Why it's a long time off.
Mrs. Snail — I know, but the store is half a block away.

An Easy Gift.

Small boy, running up and displaying slate:—"Just look, uncle, what I've done with my example! Got a whole million! I'll give it to you as a Christmas present."—*Fleegende Blätter.*

Gifts That Won the War

'Because we were a nation of athletes we won the war for humanity.

Why?

Because our boys had the spirit of contest, the determination of victory, and the physical stamina of endurance, all acquired by athletic training.

And they are going to continue to preserve that physical superiority and encourage it in their boys and girls. That is why sporting goods make such gratifying gifts. All Americans love to play.

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Wise givers of gifts will shop now for the coming holidays, so they can have first choice of the unusual and distinctive things now on display. Persons of fastidious taste are most cordially invited to come in and look over the new things—they will be delighted with their beauty, originality—and reasonable prices, of course.

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And A Happy New Year

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Rochester

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