

Reporter Does His Christmas Shopping

By JIM CRELLIN
STAFF WRITER

One Christmas just gets by and another one is here with its usual last-minute shopping sprees, crowded stores and holiday atmosphere.

For once I did my Christmas shopping early this year and avoided the last-minute rush. As a matter of fact, I did my shopping yesterday.

First off I better explain why I did my Christmas shopping early this year.

It's because this is going to be a special Christmas for me. The little woman and I are going to be par-

ents for the first time just before Christmas and that means I will be able to give toys to my own little boy.

SO YESTERDAY I carefully

counted out the nickels and pennies I had saved all year to do my Christmas shopping with, bundled up in my warm clothes and hit the street to play Santa Claus for the first time.

The first top shop I walked into amazed me. There were thousands of toys piled all the way to the ceiling. I hardly knew where to start looking.

I finally decided to walk up and down the aisles and buy things as I went.

THE FIRST thing I came to was a rack of BB guns but that didn't seem like a practical thing to buy a newborn baby so I moved on down the counter to the football uniforms.

Most of the uniforms looked rather large so I called the sales lady and explained the situation. She looked at me in a funny way and said she didn't think it was practical for kids to wear football uniforms too soon after they were born.

Right away I could tell she didn't know anything about my future son, because I knew he would be passing a football around before he knew how to hold a bottle.

AFTER ARGUING the point with her for several minutes, I purchased one of the larger uniforms. I figured my son would probably grow into it pretty fast anyway.

From the football equipment I moved down the counter to the electric trains. Now there is something every boy likes, I said to myself. I knew my son might not be able to enjoy it for a few years, but I figured that when I used it I would set it up around his crib.

My next stop was at the bicycle department and after tripping my way through the rows of bikes, scooters and wagons I decided to buy a nice red wagon for my future son—and for me to carry his toys home in.

SOON I was on my way again with a train and football uniform under one arm and pulling a little red wagon.

I wandered nonchalantly through a maze of counters containing everything from slingshots to Buck Rogers ray guns, not forgetting to stock up on a good supply of cap pistols, airplanes and cars for my son.

Finally, several hours and several purchases later I decided that Santa Claus had about as much loot as he could carry and had better be on his way home.

AFTER I tripped up the stairs and banged on the door—for what seemed like ten minutes—my sweet little wife let me in and helped carry my son's toys into the house.

Being a woman she was curious and it was only a matter of seconds before she had looked over my purchases and made some choice comments.

"What did you buy all these things for?" she said. "I'm going to have a baby, not a full-grown football player, and besides you bought all boy's things."

"Well," I said, "in the first place

I know it's going to be a boy, and in the second place you just don't get kids for Christmas."

ABOUT THAT time I noticed she was putting on her coat so I asked her destination.

"I'm taking all the pennies and nickels I saved to go shopping with

and I'm going out and buy our future little girl something for Christmas," she said.

All I can say is that I'm glad I got my shopping done early this year.

And besides, won't my wife feel foolish—having to take back all HER baby purchases the day after Christmas!

Page 12 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC November 20, 1958



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... And a Panda Too!

"Oh, isn't he the cutest thing you've ever seen, Gramma?" piped little Lynn Bartz when she spotted the Panda atop a shelf in Shain's drug store. The five-year-old miss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Stewart of Webster drive, passed up an opportunity to finger shampoo bottles and tooth paste tubes and other drug store intrigue to "pant over the panda."



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Sleds Mean Winter Fun

Winter and Christmas mean icy sidewalks and snowy hills and a guy just has to have a sled. Danny Mayer, 5, tried one out for size when he visited the recently opened Morris Chain Store, 635 S. Woodward, Birmingham, with his father, Lawrence. The store, ninth to be opened in Detroit and its suburban areas by the Morris Chain, features nationally advertised toys, appliances and gift items. With the completion of permanent fixtures in January, a complete selection of Morris items including tools, sporting goods, hardware, housewares and garden supplies will be offered.