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**But We're Still Killing 'em Off**

Despite the early arrival of winter and hazardous driving conditions, 43 fewer persons were killed in Michigan traffic in November than in the same month a year ago, according to a provisional report issued by the State Police.

But even with the unusual reduction, 121 deaths compared with 164 in November last year, it is expected the year will end with more fatalities than in 1958.

November was the fifth month this year in which there were fewer fatalities than in the corresponding month of the previous year.

**Dear Santa Claus:**

I have been a good girl. I want one Heier doll, doll furniture, one for the girls (size 3) books, one little train.

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**4-D THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC Dec. 17, 1959**

**DOWN TO EARTH  
More Holiday Ideas  
For Area Gardeners**

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Requests are still coming to this writer for gift ideas for local gardeners. A previous article gave you book selection ideas. Here are some others.

If you have a person on your list who is home a great deal of the time, do not overlook the idea of having a bird feeder to watch. Several pounds of seed completes the combination. If he lives on acreage, a person will welcome field glasses and the book "Birds: A Golden Nature Guide". Remember, the glasses are for winged birds.

NOW WITH the snow on the ground you can appreciate the role of evergreens on your property. There are all varieties of trees which are majestic in their maturity and will grow to 60' plus and you will want to allow for a diameter of 30". Now you know why I wonder when a nursery. Mrs. Burlingame man places them around the foundation of a small ranch home. Evergreens can be planted in early spring as a future gift.

THE MICHIGAN Horticultural society is having your columnist take a group to New York City March 7 to see the famous New York Flower Show. Take a few shows and have lots of leisure time for now. Now there is a gift with a future for your garden.

The local Christmas Show is over for the hard working members of National Farm and Garden. When all of the scores were calculated the tri-color for the most points in the show was won by Mrs. Duffield Sharelow. The general chairman of the entire production was Mrs. Herbert Carr who won the gold rosette for the highest number of blue points.

AFTER YOU secure your Christmas tree be sure to place it in a bucket of water with three cups of sugar. You will be rewarded by its ability to hold its needles.

HERE IS a repeat this year. Some folks like to create rainbow colored flames for their fireplace. You may use scrap wood or small blocks of scrap wood. Get a metal bucket for the soaking process. Secure one pound of chemical for one gallon of water to be soaked. Place materials to be dyed in a mesh bag. Immerse in the mixture for fifteen minutes. Dry the dyed cones or blocks on paper and you may reuse any chemical left over.

Here are some choices you may

**Wise Old Owl Isn't—He's a 'Birdbrain'**

ANN ARBOR—The owl has few reasons to ask "Who?" For while the pesky starling is an "intellectual" in the bird kingdom, the "wise old owl" is a "dunce," says a University of Michigan bird expert.

Owls are so stupid that they can't find their way around a laboratory without bumping into things, Prof. Marston Bates of the U-M Department of zoology reports.

Researchers were convinced that the owl's difficulty is not poor vision but lack of intelligence—thus dealing a severe blow to an age-old bit of folklore. The zoologist adds in an article published in the Nov. 29 New York Times Sunday magazine.

THE GRACEFUL SWAN, no mental giant among birds either, tried to swim in a small puddle it mistook for a pond, and a male ruffed grouse failed to recognize that his intended mate was stuffed. Glass eggs have been fooling chickens for years.

On the other hand, Professor Bates adds, crows and ravens have been taught to select objects marked by dots of varying number and pattern. Robins and other birds have proven their "adaptability" by thriving in the lawns and gardens of suburbia, and the success of starlings and sparrows as city dwellers is obvious. In England, in fact, these birds have learned to open milk bottles for an early morning drink.

The "birdbrain" wouldn't be very useful in man, the professor concludes, but "the birds are getting along all right."

**Dear Santa:**

I would like a pair of ice skates. A wondrous sled. A money island penny machine and a toy radio. Give me a new sled. A new pump car and a lamb chop puppet. Steve wants ice skates. I want a new sled and a cowboy set—jack in the box. And don't forget the poor child—she wants something nice—I want a girl to kindergarten. I want a GOOD girl. I help my mommy. Don't forget Chick. Love, CATHY KEISTER, Birmingham.

I want a rell Typewriter with a case and a Patty Pal doll, and a Pony Tail walk. I am being a good girl. I am 8 years old. Love, KAREN CRAIG, 000

I am four years old. I was 39 pounds. I have bin a good girl. Now here is what I want. I want to play with her three was super card. I want red ball. I want a baseball with a baseball bat. I want some slippers. I want a nightgown. Love, CASEY HANS, 85 S. Buckaway Rd. Birmingham

**Weather for Dec. 31--Misty**

The Student congress of Seaholm high school has announced the appointment of Jane McKinley and Chuck Hartung as co-chairmen of the Annual New Year's Eve dance.

Entitled "Midnight Mist," the dance will be held at the Birmingham Community house, Dec. 31, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

All students in the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills area have been invited and an invitation is extended to students of the area home from college for the holidays.

Tickets may be purchased at Seaholm High in the lobby Dec. 21-23; and thereafter at Grinnell's music store in Birmingham. The cost for the semi-formal dance is \$3.50 per couple, if tickets are purchased in advance; and \$4.00 per couple, if bought at the door.

Music will be provided by Joe Gagner's orchestra. Refreshments and noise-makers are included in the price of the ticket.

Committee chairmen include: Judy Knowles, tickets; Jackie Paulus, programs; Diane Downey, decoration; Pauline Craig, refreshments; Bob Brookman, chaperones; Betty-Jean Shea, clean-up; and Berry Wilson, publicity. Advisors are Don Martin, Director of Recreation; and Marilyn Arner, Seaholm teacher and director of the Teen center. Sponsors are the Birmingham Recreation department and the Community house.

**Dear Santa Claus:**  
I want a holster. I want a mantle. I want a...  
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