



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

For Active Youngsters

Ernest Teichman had a suggestion for Santa Claus who was looking for gifts that would suit the active youngsters. Teichman showed Kris Kringle the latest in tumbling and wrestling mats now being featured at the Varsity sports shop, 277 Pierce, Birmingham. The gentleman with the whiskers just had to try it out.

Games Still One of Most Popular Christmas Gifts

By WILLIAM J. ARTHUR
Staff Writer

Games are still one of the most favored gifts at Christmas time.

This is the consensus of many store owners in the Birmingham area who make it their business to know the likes and dislikes of customers.

There were many and varied reasons given for the popularity, but almost all agreed that people just like to sit down and play a game.

FOR A RAINY night, or for one of those evenings when the television set is on the blink—or the programs are just lousy—there is nothing more fun for the family than to sit down at the kitchen or living room table for a game of scrabble, monopoly, blue chip, or hundreds of other family games.

The three games mentioned above represent an old favorite, a game that has been established for only several years—and one of the newest on the market.

Monopoly is one of the oldest—and most popular—games on the market today. Scrabble, on the other hand, has been established only for the last 10 years or so and blue chip, a game of the stock market, made its appearance last year.

The television influence has extended to the market and many

of the popular games are direct copies of television programs.

SUCH GAMES AS Concentration, Clue, Ferry Mason, Rifleman, Hackberry Hoard and others are taken from TV shows.

Game manufacturers are also cashing in on the sports craze that has been sweeping the country during the past 10 years.

There is a howling alley game that can be set up in the basement or a long hallway that has an automatic pinsetter.

Electric baseball, basketball, football and hockey are one of the hottest selling items on the market, according to the toy store owners.

THESE GAMES are played by many adults who are taking more

RADAR BIKE

One bike maker has developed a convertible radar patrol bike this year, with electric microphone, loud speaker and amplifier mounted behind the seat.

and more time to have some fun with the children.

Parents, rebelling against the time-consuming TV set, are substituting a game for the one-eyed monster.

Other active indoor games include horseshoes, full-scale shooting galleries, the ever-popular ping-pong and dart-throwing games.

None of these appeal to you yet?

THEN HOW ABOUT such games as India, Chinese checkers or parcheesi?

To keep children quiet and busy during inclement weather card games like Old Maid, Rook and Flinch are fun.

If none of these card games are available, then take a regular deck and teach the youngsters to play War.

One of the more popular games is of the pinball variety—including everything from a 79-cent game that can be carried in the pocket to one that is almost identical to that found in business establishments.

Another reason that games continue as popular gifts at Christmas time is the variety in both the product and the price range.

It is possible to buy a little game for 39 cents—or you could buy a big new chess set with any figures and inlaid board for only \$115.

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