

Santa Plans for Tots to Teens

3 Ways Left To Contact Santa Claus

By EVELINE OEN
Staff Writer

There are three ways to contact Santa—and they are not telephone, telegraph and tell Mother.

The first thing you must do is get Mother to take you to downtown Birmingham to see Santa personally Friday and Saturday. Kindly St. Nick will wander through the stores, particularly those on or near Maple between Chester and Hunter.

When not in the stores, he will be seated in a special chair in front of Kresge's on Henrietta and W. Maple.

(You can recognize him by his long white beard and range red suit.)

THE SECOND thing to do—in case you forgot to mention something when you whispered in his ear—is to call him on the telephone.

Santa has arranged through the Community House, the Senior Men's Club and the City of Birmingham Recreation Dept. for a special, private, direct line to the North Pole.

Because he must answer calls from other children, the times to call him have been limited to between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

The very special number is MI 6-7222; have Mother dial it for you.

IF YOU WAIT too long, or happen to see an absolutely marvelous new toy in the meantime, fear not. Santa has been getting letters for years. He even has a mailbox all his own, decorated so that letters and cards put in it get to him "special delivery."

You'll find it front of Kresge's, near the corner of Henrietta and W. Maple.

There's just one more thing: Once you talk or write to Santa, you must be very, very good until Christmas—the elves are watching.

Newest in Games Reflects the Age Of Space Travel

Toys for boys 12 and up? This can be a problem. Especially if you insist on calling them "toys". "Hobbies", "games" or "crafts" are perhaps more fitting descriptions — at least for the sake of the youngster's pride.

But whatever the nomenclature, boys of this age are often difficult to buy for, since they are too "big" for toys and need gifts that will appeal to and hold the interest of inquisitive minds.

THE ATOMIC and space age has had a marked effect upon the supply of games for these youngsters this year.

Stores in the Birmingham area have stocked such things as "nuclear-powered" Polaris submarines, equipped with rockets and torpedoes. These, by the way, are not water models but can be operated on dry land.

THERE ARE ALSO model space ships, space platforms, several types of rockets and even nose cones.

"Strategic Command" features land, air and sea forces and the object of the game is to capture your opponent's headquarters with your military forces.

A UNIQUE stand-up playing is magnetic and two-sided. It is graphically illustrated on both (See GAMES, Page 14)



CHRISTMAS IS TEEN TIME too as this quartet of young people prove, previewing what each, in his innermost mind, would like this year. A formal might be just the thing muses Jane Egan (left). George Watkins dreams of hunting season while Jane Ellen Mead is sure she'd like nothing better than a big plush animal such as that spotted creature she's riding. As for the young miss on the telephone, Jill Harcke, she's comparing notes with another record-minded pal who no doubt shares the same interests.

Teen-Agers No Yule Problem

by MARY ELLEN MEAD
Staff Writer

If small girls are made of "sugar 'n' spice," then a modern Mother Goose could peg their teen-age brothers and sisters with another descriptive phrase: "Fashions, fables and fads!"

Although most mothers deplore this year-round emphasis, the majority agrees that during the annual Christmas shopping stint it makes gift selections easy and, for once, the eternal exclamation, "But MOM, everybody has one!" stand in good stead if relatives, friends or parents but lend an ear.

THE FACT THAT Birmingham youngsters grow up in the shadow of innumerable winter resorts, riding schools and summer spas makes thinking in terms of sports equipment a natural.

However, this could lead to quite a layout financially, for just as important as the skis, skates, toboggans, jodhpurs, boots or tennis rackets is the apparel thereof.

Either check this out first (to avoid long faces), or make the gift a combined endeavor—article plus outfit!

The same applies to purchasing memberships in either of the two local, teen-age dance clubs, Assembly or Cotillion. Both inevitably require a new party dress for Susie or a madras jacket for Johnny.

This is where great-aunt Nellie can magnanimously step into the picture or, as one of our local shops advertises in a window full of teen-age lovelies, "Tell your grandmother about these!"

CHECKING OUT hobbies is another sure-fire method of coming up with the perfect gift, for nothing is more dedicated or single-

Racing Fun

Young racing fans can have all the thrills, spills and excitement of go-kart racing this year with a new "Which Lane?" Chicane Race. There's unpredictable fun as two lanes narrow down to one, and the little cars choose their own exit lane. A pedal-type accelerator controls each car.

For the Children

Thanks to the smart Santa Claus who remembers the children with a merry chest in which to keep their toys. Here's a gift parents will appreciate, too.

track than a teen-ager with a project.

Girls are frequently artistic-minded, leading one to the purchase of oils, water colors, brushes or canvases; boys are just as often involved in photography, hunting, hi-fi, ham radio, hot rods or their own party-playing combos, of which there are dozens in Birmingham.

Any of these gives rise to all sorts of purchases in any price range.

FOR ADULTS not menally attuned or equipped for keeping live

stock in the household, i.e., ocelots, monkeys, deodorized skunks, baby elephants or goats (all advertised by a local pet shop), second best choice is the stuffed animal.

These, too, come in any size or price range (the recipient prefers the biggest) and often are a more constant companion than the real thing—accompanying their owners to summer camp or straight through four years of college.

As a matter of fact, shoppers, castest purchasing in the world revolves around our teen-agers, especially in a town whose shops play up their every whim.

Talkative Yule In Store for Kids, Parents

The latest word in toys is a laugh — and what a delightful, chuckly one it is.

It belongs to Chatty Baby, sister of Chatty Cathy, and the little dear has a variety of things to say, in the baby-talk way of an 18-month old toddler. Sometimes she even cries.

She's just one member of a titanic talkathon that's shaping up in toys for Christmas, 1962. Other conversation pieces are teddy bears, sea serpents, bunnies, hobby horses and dolls to say nothing of telephones, miniature recorders and other valuable playthings.

FLIP A SWITCH, pull a string and words pour out of Toyland.

For instance, there's a new doll named Saranade who sings, counts and tells stories—via phonograph records. If Saranade could, she'd probably say, "Look, Mother, no wires," for she does her tricks without such impediments.

Talking Teddy can't count but he can do anything Saranade can do and what's more, his phonograph shuts off automatically when he's had his say.

There's a very plush Bugs Bunny waiting for some lucky child and he, of course, will ask, "What's up, Doc?" If the house he moves into has more than one child, there might very well be a stuffed Cecil the sea serpent to answer back.

Or it might be an infant doll, Blabby, getting into the act though her vocabulary is limited to coos and gurgles.

MANY OF THE phrases uttered by the new talking toys are designed to direct the child into wholesome play situations and will broaden a child's knowledge and interest, the experts believe.

Older children may ask for a working replica of Edison's original phonograph on which they can record and play back their own voices.

Young genius can also try for a transistorized shortwave radio with five bands—it will pull in broadcasts from foreign lands, ships at sea, planes in flight or the local scout car.

And the geographically-minded will enjoy a "talking" globe which describes adventures to be had in its use through recordings of Lowell Thomas Jr.

MORE MUTE but equally magical are some of the games offered this year. A table-top innovation permits duffers—you know Dad'll play too—a chance to putt through (See DOLLS, Page 4)

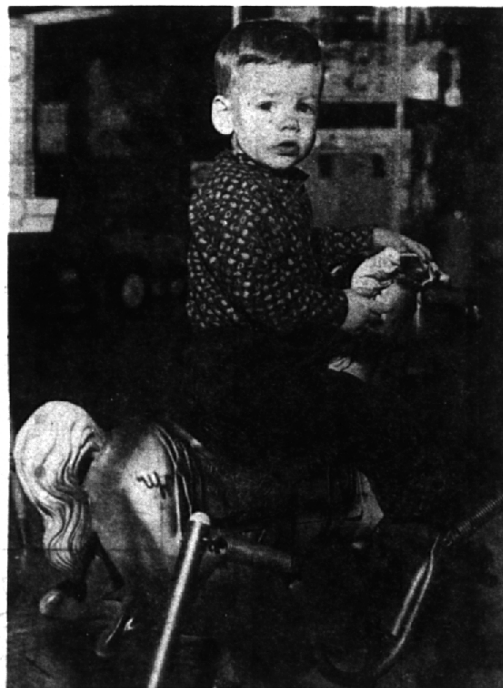
Brand New Thrill Awaits Bathroom Admirals, Pilots

For the bathroom admiral and the playroom pilot, there are exciting new toys that travel through water and fly through the air, with which to thrill them this Christmas.

Seagoing craft range from wood and plastic tugs for the youngest members of the family to model outboard and inboard motors powered by special fuels, for the grammar school set.

THERE ARE airplanes which can be pushed by baby. There are planes which will fly on rubber band power. Accurate scale models of civilian and military planes may be assembled from kits.

And for the older boys, who dream of the day when they can take a ship aloft, there is even a remote control plane set with which they may practice takeoffs and landings.



Howdy Partner

Would-be cowboys will smile on Christmas morning if they find "Blaze" the talking horse hitched to the Christmas Cap. The black and white colt moves all four legs in a galloping action and can say 11 different things.