

HOLIDAY SHOPPING To Virginia, From Santa

by Barbara Mundall

Yes, Virginia's mommy, there are toys beyond Toys 'R Us. Beyond Rainbow Brite, Care Bears and A-Team dolls. The classics you remember from your own childhood are still around as well as some new alternatives and additions to the TV prompted shopping list:

Stocking Stuffers

Tarym's, in the 5th St. Public Market, is full of stocking stuff. Magnifying plexi boxes, 50¢ and \$1.50. A combination telescope/pocket microscope, \$2.50. A kit for growing amethysts or diamond crystals (you got a kid with a green thumb, you could make a profit!), \$5.75.

Cloth finger puppets, \$1.25. Cernit clay that "fires" to a porcelain finish in any home oven, \$1.00 to \$2.00. Tiny wooden tea sets in boxes, \$1.95. Iridescent bubble stuff, 75¢ or a bubble bear, \$4.00. An alligator horn that honks out a snapping alligator, \$2.25 (this would also be a great New Year's Eve toy for adults). Another alligator—this one on a pole to snap at friends and enemies, \$1.25.

A very repulsive frog that squirts water, appealing, no doubt, to boys of a certain age, \$1.75. And wonderful things that transform before your very eyes:

and everything needed for building a castle, including the castle ghost, \$6.95 to \$70. Plastic geometric building sets of interlocking triangular forms are \$12 and \$20. A wonderful, but expensive, wooden ranch, complete with tractor, people and animals is \$70.

For huggables, there's a bear that's also a puppet you put your hand inside, \$25. Other hand puppets include a magical unicorn, \$8; snowy owl, \$9.50; and irresistible panda, \$19.00.

Books

And for the Johnnies who still read, there's nothing like a book. Owner Nancy Uhlhorn of *The Secret Garden*, 2625 Hilyard, recommends classics, newly illustrated. *The Wind in the Willows*, by Kenneth Grahame, has been reissued with handsome illustrations by Michael Hague, \$17.95.

For ages 9-12, Elizabeth George Spear's *Sign of the Beaver* about a twelve-year-old boy who tries to survive alone in the Maine wilderness is a book even boys will love. For older girls, a reissue of an old favorite, the Emily series by L.M. Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*, comes in a boxed set, \$9.40.

New are boxed sets of "board" books, with strong cardboard



Photograph by Barbara Mundall.

This shiny Scotty dog is a pull toy available at Opus 5.

capsules that dropped into water turn into sponge animals, \$1.25; a magic tree that grows rock crystals, \$1.50; and shells that open up to release flowers inside, \$1.35.

From *The House That Jack Built*, 488 Willamette, bright plastic combs in animal shapes, giraffes, elephants, dogs and fish, 75¢. An airplane whistle with propellers that whirl when you tweet, \$1.25.

For kids and adults alike, English marbles ranging from 5¢ to 45¢ include "smokies" and "fros-ties," from deep greens and blues to iridescent "silvered" ones.

And for one sweet treat, Czech suckers, like blown-glass rods with flowers in the center, only 15¢.

Under the Tree

The House that Jack Built has a vast collection of stuffed animals and beautiful and cuddly dolls. They also have a wonderful xyle-phone that has separate pipes and a very nice tone, \$12.95.

Or a tin bank with a magpie that pops out of the birdhouse to snatch a coin, \$12.95.

For kindergartners, a set of traffic signs for fun while learning, \$8.95.

Scotty dogs seem to be everywhere this year, and the best of all is a shiny black scotty pull toy with red wheels, at Opus 5, 23 East 28th, in the Southtowne Shopping Center, \$20.

For building skills there's nothing like construction sets. A new one imported from Spain comes with turrets, drawbridge

pages that hold up to overeager young hands. A box of Beatrix Potter favorites, 6 for \$4.98.

Nancy says what people are really after this season are books with cassettes. She has a selection of over a dozen titles, with many more coming before Christmas, including *Cinderella* packaged with a coloring book and crayons, \$6.50, and a two-part *The Hobbit*, \$9.95 for each part.

Splurges

These are collector's toys, and we all know you're buying them for yourself as much as for the kids. While they're expensive, they're likely to be handed down from your kids to their kids and on to the generation after that, so maybe they're not so expensive after all.

A handmade Hansel and Gretel gingerbread cottage, with top handle for toting, by Oregon craftswoman Karen Olson, at *House That Jack Built*, \$100.

An oak hand-crafted wagon that would withstand any abuse, from Sattva, in the 5th St. Public Market, \$320.

A cast-iron doll's daybed, complete with coverlet and pillows, \$99 from *Interior Accents*, 2811 A Oak St., in the Southtowne Shopping Center.

A wicker doll's buggy outfitted with ruffles, \$44 at Tarym's.

And five minutes past blast-off gift opening, when it's all over, if you want to really make them happy, give the kids the box your VCR came in and let them really enjoy themselves.

Things to Do...

EUPHORIA
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Go to Euphoria

1. arrange for shipment of truffles to Aunt Louise
2. buy bulk chocolate
3. pick out stocking stuffers
4. investigate the new Euphoria Chocolate Sauce
5. don't forget to pick up TRUFFLES

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