

Thoughtful Guests Give Xmas Gifts

Thoughtful guests at a Christmas dinner or party will arrive bearing gifts for the lady of the house. This is not only a pleasant and courteous thing to do, but it's also extremely easy. Stores everywhere are brimming with a host of gifts for the hostess.

Since the giver knows in advance that the gift likes to entertain, the selection can be guided by this knowledge. High on the list of desirable hostess gifts are items that help to enhance hospitality the year around.

She'll welcome gifts to use in kitchen, living or dining room when she welcomes guests. Canape trays, fruit and cheese knives, snack trays and relish dishes are among the many possibilities in this category.

Unusual Gift Amuses

An amusing gift for the hostess who likes the unusual is a wooden corkscrew with holes in its back which serve as holders for toothpicks. Olives, anchovies wrapped in bacon, tiny frankfurters and other cocktail delicacies can be placed on the picks, and the up-curving tail of the corkscrew makes a handy holder for pretzels.

Glasses come in racks that make an attractive display. One such set consists of a brass-finished rack with eight frosted glasses, decorated with coin dots, and four matching dip bowls.

Individual carafes mounted on a wrought iron base above a candle keep the coffee warm and please the hostess. Also available are large or serving-size casseroles with their own candle-warmers.

For a very special hostess, a silver chafing dish is valued greatly and used often.

Another extra-special present, at a comparatively low cost, is a barbecue. Portable charcoal barbecues may be purchased in a convenient size for indoor as well as outdoor cooking.

Other areas of the home, as well as the living and dining rooms, spark gifted ideas for the hostess. Towels for the kitchen are now so glamorous she'll hope for help with the dishes so she can show them off. Typical is a set of glass towels with vivid designs created by famous American painters.

Designs Are Varied

Corkscrews and bottle openers come in a variety of unique designs that make good conversation pieces as well as serving a useful purpose.

Sets of matched kitchen knives, steak knives, carving knives or a carving board are other gift suggestions.

Inexpensive kitchen gifts can be glamorized with a little time and imagination. For example, containers for frozen food can be packed with anything from cookies to cartons of gourmet cheeses, and dressed up with unusual wrappings.

If the choice is a boudoir gift, variety is offered. She'll appreciate a dressing table set with a sparkling array of cut-glass bottles or attractive drawer-arrangers of plastic or quilted satin, to hold her cosmetics, gloves or hose.

Sweater Side Offered Men

Men's wardrobes are always light on the sweater side. This fact revealed by a recent clothing survey, points the way to more successful gift giving for this Christmas.

Sweaters for gifting this season have tricky patterns designed to give a broad shouldered look. A new design is the crew neck sweater, a lot like the turtle neck which provides a timeless model, somewhat less "swanky looking" than the ordinary turtle neck.

The traditional open-V neck sweater for more formal occasions is being shown in soft wool of bright or light shades.

The tennis sweater has found new uses this year with the whole family wearing the familiar white, red and navy pullover for skiing, hiking and just plain relaxing.



THE VIEW FROM OTI HILL gives one a good look at the south end of the Basin and the many ridges of Stukel Mountain as it rears above the fertile valley.

Diamond Ring Engaging Gift For Yuletide

Maybe you didn't know it, but December is "hotter" than June. In the diamond business, that is. Surveys reveal that jewelers sell more engagement rings during December than in any other month of the year, and many more than in June.

Christmas Eve is reckoned as one of the most popular single days in the year to bestow the betrothal ring. "Christmas Eve is a family time," the jeweler says, "and a girl usually shows her diamond to the family first."

Cupid as a statistician comes up with this one, too: in jewelry stores, about half of all diamond sales are for "engaging" purposes. Another twenty-five per cent is in diamond rings for wives.

Men and young men come in "solo" and choose about half of all the engagement rings purchased but another big block of sales is to couples shopping together. It is interesting, by the way, that couples more frequently shop together in the big cities than in the smaller communities.

In case you want to do a little pre-Christmas prompting about the kind of ring you'd prefer, here are some of the new style points:

Most popular ring with Cupid and Santa Claus and every girl who can get one is the round, brilliant-cut diamond plus a pair of baguette diamonds, one on either side of the round center stone. The brilliant is flashy and fiery and the little baguettes are clear and serene, which makes for contrast in luster. Baguettes are usually mounted in white gold or platinum.

If you are holding out for an emerald-cut diamond, and he has four or five hundred dollars to spend, your dream may come true. Today the cutters are producing gems of less than a half-carat in weight, faceted in the ultra-modern oblong or square contour.

Emerald-cut diamonds, as their name implies, are cut in the style that was long used for emeralds and other colored stones.

For an engagement ring, the emerald-cut diamond is very sophisticated. But for the old-fashioned, true love, Christmas betrothal, why not have a nice round diamond set in carved yellow gold?

The shoulders of the ring may be applied with "sculptured" flowers, or the motifs may be engraved and centered by small brilliants.

There are some beautiful new finishes for yellow gold, too. One is called "crepe de chine," a kind of fine, grainy finish which looks especially rich combined with areas of highly polished gold.



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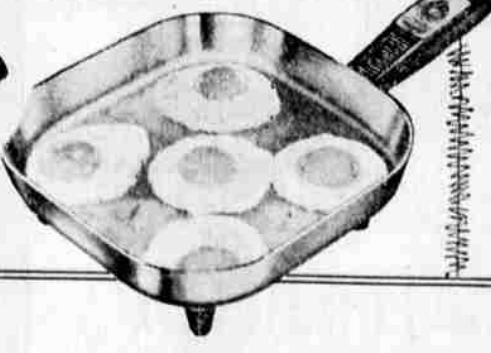
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DeHERIOT PARMA VIOLET, FRENCH LILAC CELEBRE-WHITE LACE

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