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Select Your Christmas Gifts With Care

"Daddy, I want a gun for Christmas." And many boys and maybe a few girls will get their wish Christmas morning. Mother is probably wondering now. Junior is old enough to have a gun and Dad is shopping around trying to get the best buy.

In choosing a gun, keep the youngster in mind. Hugh Fields, wildlife specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, says you should pick the gun that is easiest for his inexperienced mind

and hands to use. "If he is primarily interested in squirrel hunting and target practice, a .22 rifle will do," Fields says. "But if he likes all-round hunting, perhaps you should choose a shotgun."

What are the qualities of a good first gun? The three most important ones are simplicity, dependability and safety. Most single-shot bolt-action shotguns and .22 rimfire rifles meet these requirements. So does

the break-back or pump single barrel shotguns. They also have these points that make them ideal: the youngster can easily understand how they work; many must be manually cocked; the hammer or plunger is external, where it is easily seen; the bore can be easily and safely examined; they are easily taken apart for cleaning.

Fields says the .22 rimfire is the obvious choice when choosing a rifle caliber for the beginner. Per-

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HOME ACOUSTICAL CEILINGS ARE POPULAR IN THIS ORDER: FAMILY, PLAY, LIVING, KITCHEN, DINING AND BEDROOM.

haps the biggest chance for error is choosing the proper shotgun gauge. Typically the 410 is picked for a first shotgun. Fields says this is a mistake. The 410 is effective only in the hands of an expert because of the small shot load. Most 410's are full choke, which calls for accurate shooting. Also the variety of shells available is extremely limited.

"Perhaps a 20 gauge will be a better choice," cautions Fields. "The recoil is light and the shot load is adequate. Twenty gauge guns are available in several chokes and a variety of shells are available."
Fields emphasizes that you should choose a gun that will fit the youngster. It is poor economy to get an adult size and expect the youngster to "grow to fit it." Many manufacturers make youth sized rifles and shotguns that can be restocked to adult proportions.

Keep your holidays happy by giving your child a bonus gift - a lesson in gun safety. A proper respect and attitude toward gun use is more important than the gun itself. Have your youngster learn and practice safe gun handling. You can get information through the National Rifle Association Hunter Safety Program that is being carried out by the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Miss Turnage Spoke At FHA
The Chinquapin Chapter of Future Homemakers of America held its monthly meeting in the school auditorium recently.
Jennette James, the president, called the meeting to order and led the group in the opening ceremony. The vice-president, Connie Sloan, read from the book of Matthew, followed by prayer.
The president read a letter from Rev. Norman Aycock, of the Cedar Fork Community, a recent speaker at the meeting, thanking the girls his lovely gift. She also read a letter of thankfulness and appreciation from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cavanaugh who were one of the many families to receive "baskets of fruit" which the girls sent out for Thanksgiving. A similar program will be presented by the girls during the forthcoming Christmas holidays.
Mrs. Nettie Herring, advisor, announced the success of the F. H. A.

Christmas Bazzar held last December 4.
Guest Speaker, Miss Ruth Turnage, a Home Economist of Carolina Power and Light Company of Clinton, was introduced by the vice president. Miss Turnage presented a most interesting program to the girls on 'Decorations for Christmas'.
The Future Homemakers of the Chinquapin Chapter wish to extend to you our greetings for a very Merry Christmas and a most prosperous and Happy New Year.
Annette James, reporter

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