

## Shoppers Should Be Cautious

'Twas the night before Christmas and there in his chair a father was moaning and tearing his hair. While up in their beds the kids wondered why on the night before Christmas their daddy should cry. The money'd been paid, the gifts had been bought, and all had seemed perfect — or so Dad had thought. He'd gone to the car, put the toys on the seat, then walked to the market for good things to eat. Then back to the car, and what did he find? Some thief in the night had stolen him blind.

Santa Claus won't be the only person tiptoeing around during Christmas carrying gifts. Instead of giving gifts, some people will be engaged in the process of "taking," that is, stealing them. Thieves such as these will be sneaking through darkened parking lots at busy shopping malls prying open car doors and trunks in search for goodies.

By taking to heart a few pointers, you may be able to avoid a scene such as the one described above.

• When you are out shopping and find it necessary to leave your car unattended with gifts inside, always lock your purchases in the trunk. Although professional thieves can reportedly pry open trunks in 30 seconds or less, the trunk is still the safest place for your valuables because it removes the visible temptation for would-be robbers.

• A move that will thwart some thieves is this: after you make a purchase and return to the car with it, put it in the trunk and then drive to another parking place, even if it is in the same mall. And try not to leave the car unattended for any length of time. If you are shopping with a group of friends, take turns watching the car if there are valuables inside.

• Whenever possible, park your car in a brightly-lit, well-traveled area. And if you lock your car, always take the keys with you. The only thing worse than losing your Christmas gifts is losing your entire car.

Possibly the hottest item this Christmas for thieves is the CB radio. By taking precautions such as removing your antenna and radio from the car when it's left unattended, you can avoid the theft of this valuable item. Ask your CB dealer for other suggestions.

Above all, enjoy this holiday season, and make your gifts reach those who deserve them.

## Decorating Idea

Greens, leaves, berries and seed pods.

Here are some ideas for making these items an interesting part of holiday decor.

A rope of evergreens is easy to make and might do well over your door frame, mantle or along a stair rail.

Materials needed include: rope long enough for your needs, short lengths of wire from 15 to 18 inches, short sprays of evergreen, balls, bows, red berries or bells.

Place a bunch of evergreen against the rope and fasten in place with wire. Repeat along the length of the rope and drape as desired.

Locate places where additional decorations — berries, balls or bells — would be effective and wire them on.

Fasten the decorated rope in place with tape, tacks, corsage pins or small nails.

Lengths of evergreen can also be wired together as a spray and decorated with bells, balls, or ribbons.



### Kids Beware:

## Collectors Seek Old Toys

WASHINGTON — Kids, beware of your toys, especially if they're old hand-me-downs. A sneaky grown-up may lure them away from you.

Nostalgia, a booming antique market, and general inflation have created a soaring demand for old toys, the National Geographic Society reports. What may have been a Christmas delight of yesteryear, is a collector's dream today.

Doll houses, toy banks, electric trains are all hot items. Mechanical playthings dating from the 19th century command a premium. A bank shaped like a firehouse so enthralled one collector that he paid \$500 for it. At the insertion of a coin, a gong sounds, the doors fly open, and a horsedrawn fire-wagon pops out.

**BRING BIG MONEY**  
A sale of antique toys in Los Angeles managed by a prestigious British auction house recently brought in more than \$31,000. Other toy auctions are planned in

Europe, the United States, and Japan.

To the avid collector money isn't everything. "Gathering old toys," said one devotee, "is like stamp collecting. There's more interest to it, because there's a history behind each item. They don't become obsolete the way so many modern toys do."

Few of the faithful who rummage through antique stores, flea markets, and house sales expect to find playthings in mint condition.

On the contrary, there seems to be even more of a demand for well-loved sagging teddy bears with patchy fur than for unmarred ones with plush skins and plump bodies.

As one folklorist commented: "A toy in perfect condition is a pathetic thing. The toy which never knew the delight of a child has lost some of the essence that gives it meaning and genuine value."

## Holiday Driving Tip

It's holiday time again and if you're like many Americans you will be taking to the open roads to visit family and friends. And the longer the drive the greater the chance that you might fall asleep behind the wheel. So be prepared.

If you are getting drowsy while driving, the best thing you can do is to pull off the road and rest a while. Walk around a little, have a cup of coffee, and even get a bite to eat. But don't continue your trip until you feel well rested.

If for some reason you can't pull off the road, a series of exercises developed by a University of California doctor can help keep you alert and awake.

The series for highway drivers suggests that at the first sign of drowsiness, the driver should start wiggling his toes. The hands are next and should be exercised by gripping the steering wheel tightly and then relaxing.

This should be followed by alternately focusing the

eyes on the road ahead and then on the dashboard. Neck muscles can be exercised by moving the head from side to side while keeping eyes on the road.

The series ends with the driver taking deep breaths and sitting straight with his back arched against the back of the seat.

These exercises will keep a tired driver awake but remember, the best advice is still to pull off the road and get some needed rest.

## Merry Christmas



Country Christmas

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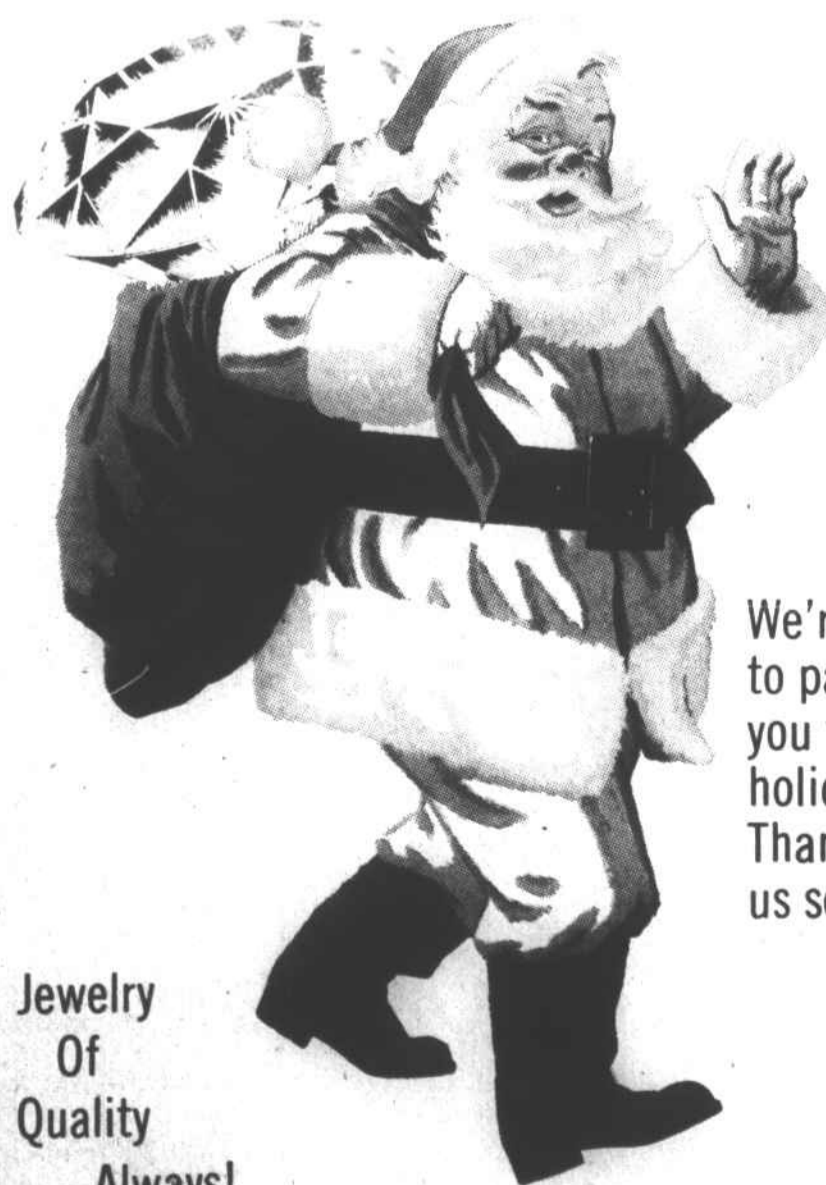
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It's that joyous and glad time of year when we open our hearts and homes to one and all, sharing our blessings large and small. May yours be the rich delight that comes with partaking of the spirit of Christmas.

**WOODLAND DRESS SHOP**

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