

"You bought what?" The Bridgewater Vet's special story for Christmas. Pages 6 & 7  
Manchester's high school & middle school students' Christmas Wish List: Exclusive report, page 11

# The Manchester Chronicle

75¢

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 15

December 17, 1997

Manchester, Michigan 48158

## Home for Christmas

Coming down Ann Arbor Hill,  
Luminarias all aglow,  
Their twinkling candles sparkling  
Upon the glistening snow.

I'm coming home for Christmas  
Back to the country town I love.  
Manchester, my home sweet home,  
You're my peaceful dove.

Turning onto Main Street  
My hometown looks so small.  
I'm glad some things never change  
Seems like I never left at all.

The Mill, the clock, the drugstore  
They've all been here awhile  
Just looking at these landmarks  
Brings to me a smile.

I see our farm in the distance,  
The barns so Christmas red,  
The farmhouse is so beautiful,  
This is my homestead.

This old road still dirt and bumpy,  
The countryside remains unchanged.  
Yes, if home is where your heart is,  
It always remains the same.

I'm coming home for Christmas,  
Back to the country town I love.  
Manchester — my home sweet home,  
You're my peaceful dove.

— Sandy Krzyzaniak Trolz  
Copyright 1991

In this season of traditions, it has become a tradition each year in The Manchester Chronicle to print the above poem, *Home for Christmas*. The words eloquently speak from the heart of a special place. The words express what so many of us feel about Manchester, about coming home for Christmas.

It was written by Sandy Krzyzaniak Trolz who has lived in Manchester all of her life, and has had The 18th Century Shoppe in downtown for the past 10 years. Sandy said she was returning home from out of town on Christmas Eve in December of 1991. As she approached the north side of town, then drove down Ann Arbor Hill, she saw the luminarias lining both sides of the streets, homes garlanded with evergreen, lights twinkling from family Christmas trees in front parlor windows, and the familiar village shops and landmarks. She said the sight overwhelmed her with a sense of appreciation for the town she lived in, the people she knew and loved, and thus *Home for Christmas*. -kk

## A Mitten So White, and Mrs. Coelius' Klager Kids' Christmas Newspaper Caper



### A Mitten So White

There once was a boy with a mitten so white  
It flew through the air and gained much flight.  
When it fell to the ground,  
All the animals gathered around  
And climbed in it to stay warm for the night.  
But oh someone sneezed  
And they all flew through the breeze.

So much for that house  
It must have been a mouse.

Mrs. Coelius' third grade students pose in front of a two-panel mural they created to illustrate the poem at left. The students cut out shapes of forest animals such as deer and rabbits, squirrels, birds and hedgehogs, then added faux fur, feathers, and appropriate quills, for texture and realism.

They also used in the mural items from nature such as twigs, leaves, acorns, grasses and dried flowers, so that the finished four-foot long panels had depth and motion and lively natural beauty.

Mrs. Coelius and her students would like to say *Thank You* to Kelly Hone for inspiration and guidance and feathers from her farm!

### The Christmas Newspaper Caper

"Teacher, teacher! Look what we've done  
We've made a pretty picture and had great fun."

"Children, it's lovely, fine art it seems to be  
We'll put it on the wall for all Klager to see."

"But, teacher, we're so proud we want to tell all  
The story of the mitten, who can we call?"

"Let's call the Chronicle, tell Kathy about it,  
She'll bring her camera and come by for a visit."

"We'll arrange all you children by the picture in the hall  
You'll be in The Chronicle...!"

... Merry Christmas to all!

Kathy

The Manchester Chronicle  
P.O. Box 997  
Manchester, MI 48158

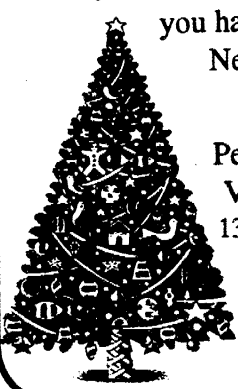
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## VILLAGE GIFTS



Thank you to family,  
dear friends — old and new,  
neighbors, and our wonderful  
customers, for your patronage.

Merry Christmas and may  
you have a joyous  
New Year.

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428-9640  
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Sunday 12-5



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has slippery solutions —  
for snow & ice.


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and Best Wishes  
for the New Year

### 428-7077

18875 W. Austin Rd.,  
Manchester  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6  
Saturday 8:30-4:30



The Manchester Chronicle is published twice a month — the first and third weeks. Deadline for ads and copy is around the week preceding. (Phone for current month's dates.) Located in the downtown historic Mill, our address is 201 E. Main St., P.O. Box 697, Manchester, MI 48158-0697. Telephone: (313) 428-1230. No part of this publication may be used without the written permission of the publisher. "The Manchester Chronicle, Kathleen Kueffner, Editor/Publisher. Printed by The Tecumseh Herald. The Chronicle is available for purchase at these locations: In Manchester • Back Door Party Store • Hop-In • Manchester Market • Manchester Pharmacy • Wacker's General Store; in Pleasant Lake at Fredonia Grocery; in Clinton at Tri-County Party Store; in Chelsea at Chelsea Print & Graphics and the Mobil Station; in Ann Arbor at Rusty's Roadhouse, Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.; in Saline at The Drowsy Parrot; and in Bridgewater at the Bridgewater Party Store.

## VILLAGE OF MANCHESTER

### NOTICE OF FILING OF NOMINATING PETITIONS

To the Qualified Electors of the Village of Manchester, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that persons desiring to qualify for any elective office shall file a petition with the Village Clerk signed by not less than twelve (12) registered voters of the Village not later than 4:00 PM on January 19, 1998, the 7th Monday prior to the March 9, 1998 nonpartisan regular General Village Election. Official blank petitions may be obtained at the Village Offices, 120 S. Clinton Street.

THE VILLAGE CLERK SHALL ACCEPT PETITIONS, THEREBY NOMINATING CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

President.....Two Year Term (2)  
Clerk.....Two Year Term (2)  
Treasurer.....Two Year Term (2)  
Assessor.....Two Year Term (2)  
Three Trustees (3)..Two Year Terms (2)

## SEASON'S GREENINGS



Holiday wreaths and swags  
Christmas greenery  
and centerpieces  
Custom bouquets and  
fresh flower arrangements

### Flora in the Mill

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800/270-1034

Thank you to my husband,  
family and friends for  
your wonderful support  
this past year.  
Happy Holidays to all!


## Celebrate the holidays' heroes.

Be sure to watch  
the inspirational  
LIFE TV special,  
Images of LIFE,  
a celebration  
of holiday heroes.

Monday December 22  
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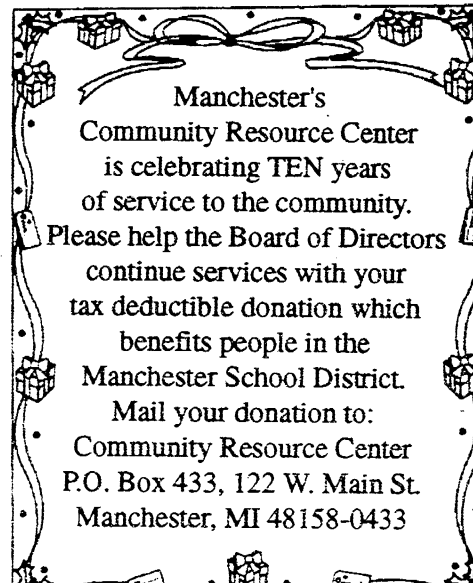
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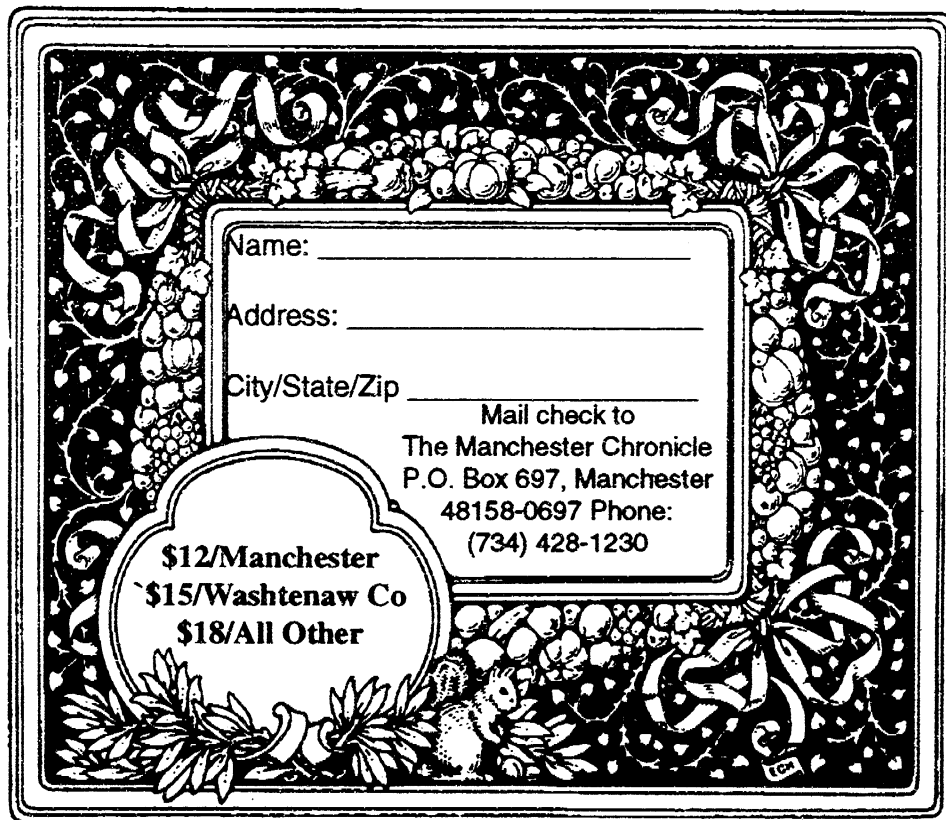
State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not Licensed in NY or WI)  
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Home Office: Bloomington, IL www.statefarm.com



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Community Resource Center  
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Please help the Board of Directors  
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Manchester School District.

Mail your donation to:  
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Manchester, MI 48158-0433



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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to  
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P.O. Box 697, Manchester  
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(734) 428-1230

\$12/Manchester  
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# A Season of Celebrating Traditions

Celebrating traditions is a very important part of the Manchester Area Historical Society, symbolized by the Christmas Eve Village Luminaria, sponsored by the Society, and the Community Christmas Party where everyone is invited to join in carolling and sampling and exchanging Christmas cookies.

Another tradition began after the dedication of the John B. Swainson Room in the Blacksmith Shop in 1995. A decorated tree is

**Feldkamp**  
**Trees & Wreaths**

*We have*  
**12- to 15-foot trees**  
**for cathedral ceilings!**

8701 Smyth Rd.,  
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Friday & Saturday 9-5  
Sunday 1-5  
or by appointment  
**428-8571**

on display for those who come to pick up Luminaria supplies during the holiday season.

Before his death in 1994, John B. Swainson was a long time Manchester resident and member of the historical society who had served the citizens of the state of Michigan as a State Senator, Lt. Governor and Governor of Michigan, Judge of Wayne County Circuit Court and State Supreme Court Justice. The Swainson Room was dedicated in the hope that Manchester friends and visitors would have an opportunity to get to know and admire John's accomplishments the way historical society members do.



In previous years, a live tree was donated by Reno and Nancy Feldkamp, Society members, from their tree farm on Smyth Road in Sharon Township. However, because the lights could not remain lit when no one was at the Blacksmith Shop, the Society decided to accept the offer of another member of the Society, Sandy

Trolz, for a donation of a life-like tree from her 18th Century Shoppe. Sandy, as she has in previous years, decorated the tree.

Mrs. Alice Swainson contributed family ornaments of straw that she and her husband John had collected over the years. The straw ornaments were found at Swedish bazaars in Detroit and represented Alice's Swedish heritage.

Alice also contributed their family's red bead garland: Sandy's creativity took off from there. She used miniature flags to create a patriotic theme along with Old World Americana ornaments from her shop such as an Uncle Sam, and included small squares of paper on which were written excerpts from the eulogy at John's funeral delivered by State Attorney General Frank Kelley which described John's contributions to Michigan.

At the base of the tree rests the bugle that John had used as a boy scout, and then as a Eagle Scout, a goose decoy from his office at home, a favorite antique leather hat box and briefcase, and the flag which covered his coffin. Also included is a photo of John as he enlisted in the Army straight out of high school, a young man of eighteen years old.

Because the tree is not real, the Christmas lights are left on continually, so even if the Blacksmith Shop is closed you can peek in the windows during an evening stroll and see the display. However, to truly appreciate the nostalgia and sentiment Sandy has created, pick up your Luminaria supplies and visit the John B. Swainson Room during hours advertised at the Blacksmith Shop.

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at

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*featuring historical photographs of Manchester*

**THANK YOU, FROM THE MANCHESTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, TO LOCAL BUSINESSES WHICH CARRY CALENDARS:**

Chapters & Verses, Comerica Bank, Community Resource Center, The 18th Century Shoppe, First of America Bank, Flower Garden, Fredonia Grocery, Kleinschmidt Hardware, Manchester Antique Mall, Manchester Chronicle, Manchester Enterprise, Manchester Township Library, Manchester Pharmacy, Manchester Village Hall, Marti's Salon, Pyramid Office Supply, Raisin Valley Antiques, Sharon House Bed & Breakfast, Sharon Mills Winery, Village Gifts, Wacker's General Store, Woodbrook Computer Store

Meetings 3rd Tuesday Month 7:30PM at the Blacksmith Shop



*One of Manchester's most endearing traditions.*

**Manchester Area Historical Society's Christmas Eve Luminaria**

Pick up supplies at the Blacksmith Shop, 324 E. Main St.  
**3:00PM-8:00PM**  
**Sunday, December 21**  
**Monday, December 22**  
**Tuesday, December 23**

**Sand, candles, bags, and instructions for \$5 and up per household**

For more information, contact Forest Walz at 428-8234



# Tony's (Holiday) Entertainment Corner — by Tony Farina



Welcome to the Corner, I'll be your guide Tony, please keep your hands and feet inside the car until the ride has come to a complete stop.

On your left you'll see **Chapters & Verses**, home of all the Christmas cheer the book lover in your life could ever need. Please note *Boofo*, the dog that goes where Santa goes. Santa finds a cold puppy who becomes his mascot and will become your wee one's favorite Christmas story. For the kiddies of a different age, they have *Saving Shilo*, the final chapter in the award winning series. That little dog can do no wrong on any book shelf.

If you love thought-provoking, beautifully written books, there is Jean Hegland's *Into the Forest*. The story of two sisters who, faced with an America that doesn't work, survive on their own. Excellent book, I read it in a day. On the more holiday side of life, David Sedaris, author of the smash *Naked*, turns out the hilarious *Holiday on Ice*. It's sure to make you giggle.

For any other Christmas need, there is a catalogue of books for the holidays. The lovely ladies at the store

can get you anything out of there, and already stock most of it. Don't forget, before the ride starts again, to register to win *Images of the Wild*. A pretty book of photos that take you into the heart of nature.

OK, so off we go to **Video World**. After a day of shopping, nothing says relax like *George of the Jungle* or *A Simple Wish*. The first shoves the cartoon baboon into reality and makes the whole family laugh. The second stars the funniest man on the planet (according to Rosie), Martin Short, and that cutie pie from *Mrs. Doubtfire*, Mara Wilson. Short plays her fairy godmother, 'nuf said.

Now that the kids are gone or in bed or at the in-laws', watch Nick Cage kick some bad guys around in *Con-Air*. I think I know who wins. If action isn't for you, Julia Roberts is back in force with *My Best Friend's Wedding*. She steals the groom and the show.

If you can't get enough Julia or enough thrill in your life, see her and Mel Gibson in *Conspiracy Theory*. If you haven't read *Catcher in the Rye*, you will after this one. Patrick Stewart takes off the Trek outfit and plays a delightful bad guy.

If you want to sit and think and think and think, the world's most adored waif is back in *Contact*. Aliens and contacting them and James Woods being evil. Did I mention Jodie Foster is in it?

That's the corner. I hope you enjoyed the ride. Please enjoy the rest of your stay in Manchester. This is Tony wondering when Jodie will be contacting me.

\*\*\*

Every year Christmas comes in with a bang. This year's exploding Barney at the Macey's parade only exemplified the point. With that explosion, the shot was heard round the world and it sounded a lot like this, "Hey, what do you want for Christmas?"

Ug. I don't know, I don't care. Of course these responses only turn into a oven-ready, microwave-safe crock pot. I'm not saying that I don't need the crock pot, or that I won't put it to use or anything like that.

What I am saying is "Gee thanks, that's great, no really, really.....Really I love it.....Thanks for the crock pot.....yep, the light pen too, that will really come in handy when I grade papers in the dark....."

I realize I'm just a twenty-four-year-old punk who really doesn't know much more than who wrote *Faust* and how many movies John Cusack has starred in, but I have a solution. I've learned in these last few weeks, that the best thing to do is be honest. I'll set the scene.

Mom: "Son, what do you want for Christmas?"

Son: "Gee, Mom, I would really love the new Death Star adventure set, and just about anything Star Wars."

See what I've done there? Honesty. OK, so maybe the surprise is gone, but what if she couldn't find the Death Star adventure set, you ask? Well, the answer is in the question. Get something else Star Wars. It is what he asked for after all.

Besides, no one says to Santa, "Eh, just surprise me, Santa, you know what I like." Not a chance, when they get their turn on the big guys lap they say, "I want a 1968 convertible Volkswagen Beetle, with a life-time supply of gas at any gas station of my choice, and I even want some fuzzy dice for the rear view mirror."

Of course I won't get to see the big guy, and I'll



The Manchester High School Key Club (Lisa DuRussel, Michelle Roos, Jane Kallewaard, Jodi Donnellon, Megan Kennedy and Michelle Barker [not all pictured]) helped Santa at Chapters & Verses last weekend. We, again, won't say who Santa was, but *maybe* Jodi's dad knows?

tell my mother, "You know what I like, I don't know."

Good thing I like most everything, because I can't wait for that crock pot, or those socks, or the closest thing to a Beetle-the White Album.

Well, that's my take on Christmas. When you see the big guy, mention that if he doesn't want to go through all the trouble of dropping the Bug off at my house, there is one for sale just down the road, or cash will do just fine.

Merry Christmas everyone.

**The Christmas Present that can be opened again and again: a Book**

**Holiday Gift Ideas:** Sheet music, books on tape, magazines, bookmarks, children's books, CDs, cassettes, journals, Smithsonian book and stuffed animal sets, music boxes, calendars, reading lights, organizers, WeeBeanies...

♥ **Romantic Harlequin Silhouette novels**

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 • Tues, Wed, Fri 10:30-6  
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From our family to yours,  
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"Today the Prince of Peace is born!"

It came upon the

## North Sharon News

— by Triscia Stiles

On December 12, North Sharon Christian School held its annual Christmas Concert. It consisted of a simple Christmas story and singing.

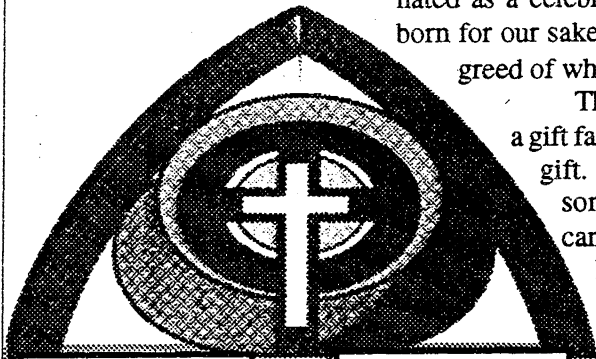
The theme was "We Saw Jesus" and it told of Christ's birth from the manger animals' point of view. The elementary students were dressed as cows, sheep, a donkey, and a kitten.

As the high school group went to the front and began singing "O Holy Night," I saw some people in the audience mouthing the words, while others wiped away a few stray tears.

I started to think about how privileged I am to know and appreciate the true meaning of Christmas. So many families portray the season as a time to get all that one can get. Giving has become an obligation rather than an act of generosity.

Love cannot be shown by material possessions. Ironically, Christmas originated as a celebration of love; Christ's being born for our sakes certainly contrasts with the greed of what Christmas has become.

This Christmas, I plan to share a gift far more valuable than any other gift. Rather than treating the season as a time to evaluate what I can receive, I will share the priceless gift of God's salvation.



**A & J Travel**  
154 E. Main St.  
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"Seek from Him a safe journey for us and our little ones..." Ezra 8

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"...there is a great chasm fixed..." Luke 16

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"...and found Mary and Joseph and the Babe lying in the manger." Luke 2:16

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"Eat, drink and enjoy the fruit of your labor; it is the gift of God." Old Testament: Ecclesiastes, iii, 13

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"Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor." I Corinthians, iii.

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"They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree." Old Testament: Micah, iv, 4

**PINNACLE Engineering Co., Inc.**  
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"Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Ecclesiastes, ix, 10

**Sea of Glass**  
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"...standing on the sea of glass holding harps of God."

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Thank you to sponsors of The Chronicle Church Page: Heart and Soul

**The Manchester Chronicle**  
428-1230

"Glad tidings of great joy I bring you..."



## Manchester Area Churches

### BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Richard Hardy  
10425 Bethel Church Rd,  
corner of Schneider, Freedom Twp;  
428-8000/429-7155 - Service 9:30 AM.

### CLINTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. Richard Coury  
13300 Clinton-Manchester Rd  
517-456-7510 - Sunday School 9:30 AM;  
Worship 10:45; Sun. Eve 6:30; Wed.  
Prayer, Bible Study Youth 7:00 PM.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor Jody Riethmiller -  
8400 Sharon Hollow Rd., Manchester Twp.;  
428-8709 - Worship: 10:00AM;  
Sunday School: 11:30 AM;  
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer 7:30PM

### EMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Vincent Carroll  
324 West Main Street, Village; 428-8359 -  
Sunday School: 9:00 AM; Worship: 10:30 AM;  
Coffee and Fellowship: 11:30 AM.

### IRON CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Tom Butterfield, Pastor  
Corner of Sharon Hollow & English Roads,  
Manchester Twp. Sunday School: 10:00 AM;  
Morning Church 11:00 AM; Sunday Evening  
7:00 PM.

### MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Thom Davenport, Pastor  
501 Ann Arbor St., Village; 428-8013  
(Parsonage); 428-8495 (Church)  
Worship 10:30 AM.

### NORTH SHARON BAPTIST CHURCH

Bobby D. Toler, Pastor; Robert Burton,  
Assistant Pastor, Tim Butterfield, Associate  
Pastor; - Corner of Sylvan and Washburn  
Roads, Sharon Twp; 428-7222 - Sunday  
School: 10:00 AM; Morning Church: 11:00  
PM; Evening Church 7:00 PM; Wednesday  
Bible Study and Youth Meeting: 7:00 PM.

### ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Erling Aaserud, Pastor  
8805 Austin Road, Bridgewater  
429-7434 - Sunday School: 9:15 AM;  
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM.

### ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Nancy Doty, Pastor  
12376 Waters Road, corner of Fletcher,  
Freedom Twp./Rogers Corners  
Worship and Sunday School: 9:30 AM.

### ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Charles Irvin, Pastor  
210 West Main Street, corner of Macomb;  
428-8811 Masses: Monday-Wednesday &  
Friday 8:30 AM; Thursday 7:00 PM;  
Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 & 10:30  
AM. Sacrament of Penance: Saturday  
4:00 to 4:45 PM.

### ST. THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. John Kayser, Pastor  
10001 W. Ellsworth Road, Freedom Twp;  
663-7511 - Sunday School: 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:45 AM.

### SHARON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Peggy Paige, Pastor  
Corner of M-52 and Pleasant Lake,  
Sharon Twp.; 428-7714 (Church); 428-  
8430 (Parsonage) - Sunday School: 10:00  
AM; Worship 11:00 AM.

### VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jon King  
423 S. Macomb Street, Village - 428-7506  
- Sunday School: 9:45 AM; Morning  
Worship: 11:00 AM; Evening Worship:  
6:00 PM; Wednesday Bible Study and  
Prayer: 7:00 PM.

### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor David Hendricks  
3050 S. Fletcher Road, Freedom Twp.  
475-8064 (Chelsea) Worship 9:30 AM.



The reenactment of "The Most Holy Night" will be held through the Live Nativity Scene at Emanuel United Church of Christ on West Main Street, Sunday, December 21 and Monday, December 22 from 7-9:00 p.m.

from heaven's all gracious King" The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.



# The Mad Hermit of Pierson's Grove

"YOU BOUGHT A WHAT?" I said rather rudely into the phone. It was early in the morning and I figured I've earned crotchety. You see, you get points as you move along and finally achieve the pinnacle, the very top, where one is allowed to be crotchety.

"A miniature donkey," was the answer.

"I've never seen one, guess I didn't know they existed. Well, anyway, what do you want me to do about it?"

"It cries all the time, if you can call a donkey's braying crying. We just got it yesterday, it kept me up all night. It won't eat. I think it's sick."

We were having this conversation because a seventh grade teacher decided that her class was going to do a Christmas play. It was the off season for little league, soccer, horse shows, and other mother-owned and -operated sports for children, so the mothers of these seventh graders were not gainfully employed. When the notion of a drama production arose, no matter how small the production, the mothers of Mary and Joseph determined — over the protests of the teacher — that a real live donkey should be used to transport the Expectant Mum. The teacher, naive soul that she was, had planned a simple Nativity play with the Holy Couple, three wise men, lots of shepherds and the rest of the class making up for the multitude of angels and livestock that purportedly were present at the Original Birth.

These two mothers, bless their managerial qualities and abilities, hitched the horse trailer to the pickup and headed optimistically for the horse sale down in Indiana. Arriving at the sale barn and looking around, they found that there was nothing in the way of donkeys broke to ride and guaranteed child safe. It seemed they were to be thwarted in their attempt but they were determined not to "dead head" both ways, so they climbed into the bleachers surrounding the sale arena. As luck would have it, a darling little miniature donkey with a thick silky coat and big ears flopping trotted into the sale ring. The mothers of Mary and Joseph bought him, paying a hundred dollars. The next animal sold was full grown and kind of pitiful looking; the auctioneer had a hard time getting twenty-five dollars because, as he told the folks gathered around, "She don't speak no English."

It was Mary's father calling me that morning saying he had been kept up all night. As it turned out the miniature donkey was about a month or six weeks old. It obviously had been taken from its

mother and sold separately, unbeknownst to the buyer. It was too young to be weaned. It was frightened, lonely, hungry and it wanted its mother. It constantly brayed a tiny little bray and real tears rolled down its cheeks. Seeing it, I was instantly overwhelmed with feelings of sympathy and empathy. I can remember losing hold of my mother's hand in a department store when I was unable

to see above the counters. That's what I was feeling for the wee donkey.

I had the folks get a nipple, like the kind used for nursing a lamb. I figured goat's milk might be rich enough for the little guy, and I wanted to keep the folks busy — by this time they were really feeling guilty.

Old crotchety called the teacher and I told her what happened. She was appalled, of course, and I suppose I should be ashamed for my part in what followed but it turned out to be a lot of fun for everybody.

A few years ago, Virginia Kelly won a Jersey heifer right from the Jersey Isles. Virginia had done wonderful things at the youth and 4-H fairs and her folks were clients of mine. Sometime after Virginia brought the heifer home it had, unfortunately, eaten some fence wire which penetrated her reticulum which was not so serious but it had gone into a

— by Dr. William K. Wellman  
The Bridgewater Vet

lung and done a lot of damage there. The heifer eventually came out of it but was never worth much afterwards as a dairy cow. Virginia didn't want to get rid of her and, Virginia being the apple of her father's eye, kept the prize cow and named her Elise (not Elsie, but Elise.) When Elise was four years old. Virginia trained her to ride under saddle and jump hurdles. She also broke her to drive on a road cart. They had their pictures in the papers a number of times and liked nothing better than to show off Elise's tricks.

continued next page



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May your holiday  
be warm and  
wonderful.

## The Mad Hermit of Pierson's Grove continued from page 6

With the teacher's connivance, which was a pleasure in itself, I booked Elise for the school play and a parade to follow directly. Elise had a crumpled horn. She'd been something of a bully in her younger days but met her match and got a horn knocked off. They never grow back normal to match the other one, (like the cow with the crumpled horn that tossed the dog, that worried the cat...).

To even her head out and make her look more Christmasy, we came up with a set of deer antlers without the head attached, wired them to her horns and decked her out with a few streaming red ribbons. Elise looked very smart indeed. In fact, when allowed to admire herself by looking in a mirror, I actually believe she almost smiled.

The mothers of Mary and Joseph were mortified. They said it didn't fit the story at all. Miss Greiner, the teacher, reminded them of the Early Master's paintings of the Christ Child and Madonna all outlandishly decked out in medieval western dress, which quieted them to a resigned murmur.

The cow was magnificent and did everything she was supposed to do. Mary hopped on and rode side-saddle while Joseph trudged along meekly with a big walking stick. There were three wise men in robes, but no camels, followed by shepherds and angels, and right out into the street they marched. The show was acclaimed to be the best ever in the history of the school, which was about five years old, tops, a fairly new school.

The parade was a traffic stopper, literally. Everyone in the school got involved and brought any pet they could lead or drive or drag. One young fellow brought a parrot in a cage but had to leave him in the car because of the freezing temperature.

Even though I am generally known as the Scroogy-type, I think I must have somehow got bitten by the Christmas spirit. Or maybe it was from being put in a position to be able to reverse the decision made by the

mom syndicate. At any rate, I couldn't get the wee jack off my mind. After the cow arrangements, but before the Nativity production, the very next day in fact after I first saw the puling critter, I got with Mary's father. I talked until I was sure that he had developed a proper lump in his throat after which I suggested that the Christmas thing to do would be to somehow reunite the sad little jack with his sorrowing dam.

I called the sale barn. They claimed to have no knowledge of the transaction, I presume not to save face but the other end.

"Any luck?"

"No luck," I answered, "but I have an Amish friend who either owns some of that operation, or he owns all of it." I tried calling him at the sale barn.

"Any luck?"

"No luck," I answered once again. I tried information for his home phone, but of course he didn't have a phone at home.

"I'll tell you what I'm gonna do, and I'd like your company."

"Shore, whatever."

"I say we put the donk in the back seat of my car and head for Indiana. I can find Mahlon once we get there. We'll go directly to his farm."

In a little over two hours, we were in Mahlon's driveway talking to him and in another half hour we knew where the dam had gone. Mahlon isn't one to get all wet-eyed over a donkey, but he's a good friend as well as a businessman. He showed me the sale record. I looked at it and laughed aloud: "The joke's on me. John Dokerty. He's not twenty miles from my place. They call him the Mad Hermit of Pierson's Grove."

The man in homespun denim took us in hand and after an enormous Amish lunch we all needed a nap but we shook hands and joyously headed homeward to find The Madman.

"Is he really mad?"

"Naw, he's angry, but not mad."

I'd been there before, not because he called me but because I needed to know how to set the broken

wing on a great horned owl that someone had brought in. He had lots of experience and was good at it: two things I lacked. I had asked him if I could watch as he fixed the wing. He was good about that, too. He kept the owl to let it go later if it healed. I think he liked me. I didn't make small talk and silently admired and acknowledged his deft superiority.

"He has a couple of hundred acres," I explained, "that he devotes to wild life and anything else that needs assistance."

He saw us coming for about three-quarters of a mile as we wound between the small hills, and he met us at the iron gate armed with a shotgun. You could see his eyes glaring long before you should have. Then he recognized me and I think I saw the beginnings of a smile hidden behind the full white beard, but he managed to get it under control before it could spread out over his face.

I got out of the car and opened the rear door to let him take a look at our charge. He looked for a spell and then reached up and tweaked his beard and with the other hand touched the baby's cheek. Then he turned, opened the iron gate, motioned us through and walked ahead of us waving us along behind him.

Not a word had been spoken, mind you. We reached a small outbuilding with a fence around three sides of it and there stood a donkey with its head thrust low, eyes closed, and ears hanging down. The most forlorn beast I have ever seen in all my born days.

The madman then gathered the tiny thing from the back seat of the car and deposited him under the nose of the sorrowing donkey.

We stood and waited. The baby sniffed at her. She seemed to be in a trance. She must have caught his scent before she opened her eyes. She began to tremble, to shake all over as she recognized her young one. She nuzzled him and nibbled at him, and they both began to bray and then to run side by side, round and round in a small circle along the fence, with her head down and turning to the baby, and his head up, and occasionally touching noses as they ran.

I stood there with my elbows stretched out on the top of the fence with my hands propping up my face, thinking:

*Such joy is almost painful to observe.*

*The man at the sale was right, she doesn't speak English, but she speaks in a language that all living things can understand.*

*Who is to say whether it is better to give, or better to receive?*

*If you ask the gruff white bearded man, if he answered you at all, he would tell you one thing. Ask the reunited mother and son and if they could speak English, it would be quite another story.*

I could feel the pressure building. The man with the white beard had his back to me but I could see him convulsing like a volcano about to erupt. Finally it broke through, initially as though he'd forgotten how, and then it burst forth in a torrent of sound — a huge pleasurable laugh that sent dogs and cats scattering looking back over their shoulders. A sound they'd never heard before. He laughed and laughed until he had a coughing spasm and the tears flowed into his beard.

When he tapered off, I said to my coconspirator, "Well, he's remembered how to laugh. Let's get out of here before he remembers how to talk."

The mad hermit John Dokerty turned toward me, grasped my hand and began pumping. My right shoulder still bothers me when I'm sleeping, let alone getting beat up and I thought for sure that he was going to pull it loose like dismembering a rag doll, until I grabbed my wrist with the other hand to slow it down.

"Thank you," he said softly. The man was winded. "Thank you very much. Will you come back some day just to talk? To visit?"

"Merry Christmas, Mister Dokerty. You are very welcome and we thank you very much. I will come back, and soon. Good-bye. Merry Christmas."

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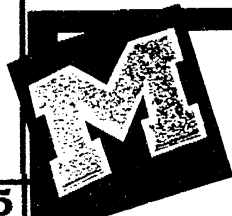
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*From our family to yours,  
may you have a  
wonderful Christmas  
and Happy New Year*



# DECEMBER

	7 Village Council 7:30 School Board 7:30 United Way	15 Vilg Curbside Recy 11:15 Sr Clergy Noon Sr Dinner 7:30 Historical Society Christmas Party Ludwig Van Beethoven's Birthday 1770-1827	16 9am General Chamber of Com- merce meeting at Sharon House B&B 7:30 Men's Club 7:30 Bridgewater Twp Board	17 9am Chamber Board Noon Sr Dinner 7 Middle School Parents 8 Sharon Twp Planning Comm	18	19 7:30 Kiwanis at Black Sheep	20
21 Emanuel United Church of Christ Live Nativity 7-9PM Sunday and Monday. See Heart & Soul Page  Pick up Luminaria Supplies at the Blacksmith Shop 3-8PM, Sunday, Monday or Tuesday. See page 3.	6:30 Optimist	22 Vilg Curbside Rec Noon Sr Dinner	23	24 Christmas Eve Luminaria all through Manchester	25	26	27
28		29	30	31	January 1998		
					1	2	3 7:30 Kiwanis at Black Sheep
4 7:00 Village Council 7:30 Library Board 7:30 Masonic bus mtg	5					9	10



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## Highlights of the November 5, 1997 Athletic Booster Club of Manchester Meeting

### TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Bills to be paid: Paint for bleachers at Athletic Complex, memorial plaque, cement bills for new weight facility, timing device for track team, yearbook ad

B. Funds to be deposited from girls basketball concession stand and program: Donation from Jack and Patsy Evilsizer, 50/50 ticket deposit, request for statement of weight facility account by facility finance committee, discussion on amount of funds to be placed into a CD

### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. New coaches hired: Varsity Volleyball, JV Volleyball, 8th Grade Volleyball

B. Coaches Opening: 7th grade volleyball

C. Weight Facility update: The finance committee for the facility will be writing for grants; progress and information on new facility needs to be published.

D. Fall Recognition Night

E. Winter Sports Parent Meeting of December 2

F. Manchester Mill Run-Booster participation

G. Wrestling - Manchester will host the MHSAA Team Districts, Individual Districts and Individual Regionals. Boosters will run concession stand

H. Recognition of the outstanding season had by Coach Vitale and girls and boys cross country team.

### OLD BUSINESS

A. Weight Room Account

B. Blocking sled purchased for middle school

C. Track Board

D. Completion of new Constitution and Bylaws of Athletic Booster Club of Manchester

E. Drainage problem at Athletic Complex

F. Irrigation system at Athletic Complex

G. Boys Basketball concession stand set up

H. Festival of Lights Fundraiser at Dominos Farm Light display

I. U of M Basketball Fundraiser  
J. School Calendar Fundraiser

### NEW BUSINESS

A Further recognition to be given to scholar/athletes (possibly a small letter)

B. 6th grade boys basketball tournament (Larry Aiken to sponsor) to be held in January

C. Banners

D. Golf Umbrellas

E. New admission sign

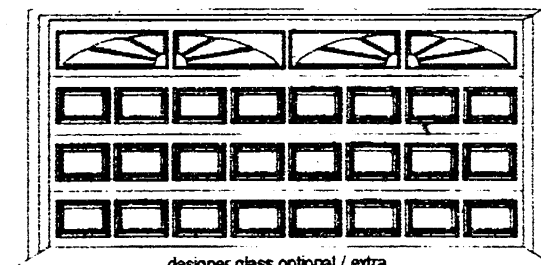
F. Boys basketball uniforms — to be directed to athletic department

The Athletic Boosters would like to encourage all parents of high school and middle school athletes to attend our meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the high school. New ideas and input are always welcome!

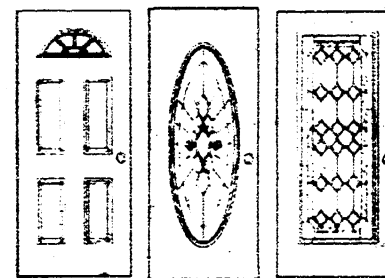
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**Charity Designation: The Athletic Booster Club of Manchester.**

This certificate is not good for admission. Limit of one certificate per vehicle.



December 17, 1997

The Manchester Chronicle

## 1997 Christmas Decorations Choice Awards

As we go to press, judges for the Manchester Beautification Committee are touring, in town and out of town, viewing the holiday decorations of homes nominated for the first annual Christmas Decorations Choice awards. Exquisite wreaths, made by Amy Griffin, are the prizes.

Right, nominated by several people, is Marilyn LaRock's front bay window. Marilyn, who lives on West Main Street, decorates her window at each change of season and for pretty much each holiday. For those of us who know about it, we always look forward to taking a stroll by her house to see the whimsical dolls and stuffed animals she has arranged for our enjoyment.

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Susan Mann  
Kathryn Martin

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## Thanks, Tirb Chevrolet



*I would like to thank Tirb Chevrolet for their efforts in the acquisition of the 1997 Chevrolet truck for the vocational automotive program located at Saline High School. The Chevrolet truck is very important to the NATEF curriculum because it will provide an opportunity for our students to develop their skills while working with the most current vehicles available.*

*It is through the commitment of dealerships such as Tirb's that schools will be able to continue to provide students with experiences necessary to succeed in the job market after graduation.*

*Thank you again for all your help in the acquisition of the Chevrolet truck.*

Timothy J. Timoszyk,  
Instructor Vocational Auto Mechanics.

Pictured above, left to right: Diane Skinner, Director of Career and Technical Education for the Consortium; David J. Achino, District Service Manager for Chevrolet Motor Division; Ray Tirb, owner of Tirb Chevrolet of Manchester; and, Timothy J. Timoszyk, Vocational Auto Mechanics Instructor at Saline High School.

The Saline Consortium, part of the South and West Washtenaw County Consortium, includes Manchester, Chelsea, Dexter and Milan.

Chevrolet Motor Division has donated over 11,000 cars and trucks, damaged in transit, to schools since 1972 for classroom instructional purposes. The program also includes donations of engines, transmissions, tools and various automotive components used for testing or design development.

## Gift Enough

"Mom, what do you want for Christmas?"

The sincere reply, "Honey, what I most want from you is a letter. Write me something that I can keep forever to remember who you are right now."

"But, Mom," whined the girl as only a 12-year-old can. "I don't know what to write."

"Well, honey, you asked me what I wanted and that is really what I want."

Her mother might just as well have asked for the white antique couch — the one at the second hand store with the tiny rosebuds with leaves the same color as the living room carpet — which is what the girl knew her mother really wanted. But who had \$500? Not her, and not her mom.

Later in her room, she thought that her mother had asked for something that was just too hard. Writing was too much like telling the truth. Not that she lied to her mother, she hardly ever did. She knew that her mother did not lie to her, although sometimes she wished she would.

And writing a letter is not a gift anyway because it doesn't cost anything, and you can't pick it out special or wrap it up like you can a sweater or a necklace. Besides, Mom would know what she was getting before she opened it — just a stupid old letter.

And what was she suppose to write? It is a boring, stupid idea for a gift, and she could prove it, too, the girl thought angrily as she grabbed a pen and found a sheet of notebook paper.

Dear Mom,

*Here's your Christmas present this year. But why do you want a letter?*

*Wouldn't you rather have that silky scarf with swirly lines? The one we saw in the store uptown the day you took me to get my soccer jacket?*

*Or what about a book? You are always reading. You have a book open in every room. As long as I can remember you have read to me. And you don't just read. You take me for a walk inside the pages and we go somewhere else.*

*I still want you to read to me at night, but I'm too embarrassed to ask you. If any of my friends found out I would die!*

*So, here's your letter. I don't know what else to write and I still can't believe this is all you want.*

*You said you want to remember me and who I am right now.*

*Why? I hate being 12. I hate my hair. I can't get a job except for baby sitting and I'm too young to drive so I have to ask you to take me everywhere all the time. You almost always do, too. So, thanks. I know you don't always want to.*

*But someday I won't have to bother you about picking me up or dropping me off because I'll have my license and you won't even have to wait up for me. You know how tired you get after 11 and you just want to get into bed and read? If I don't have my own car, and sometimes I can't use yours, I'll probably have a boyfriend and go places with him or my friends.*

*So I guess this is long enough now for a gift. OK?*

*See, I told you I didn't know what to write, and this is not a good present.*

*I wish I could get you that couch you want, or a new job where you can be your own boss and do what you're really good at. You should be able to do what you're really good at some day. And I bet you will, too, because you never give up.*

*That's what I really love about you and why I wanted to give you a real present, not just a dumb letter.*

*Merry Christmas, Mom.*

*I love you!*

— Thank you to Alice Tippery for sharing this with us.

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Congratulations to winners of our two drawings during Christmas in the Village. The Smoked West Texas Turkey was won by Kay Payeur, and the collectable 1997 Edition Snowflake Teddy Bear was won by Mary Herrst.

*Wishing you a joyous holiday! Dr. Mark and Jeannie Craft*

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# Exclusive Report: What Young People Want for Christmas

Nothing worse than giving youngsters what they don't want for Christmas, except maybe being a young person and getting something you don't want. (See related story by Tony Farina, page 4.) So we asked three students (okay, begged and pleaded) to ask their friends what was on their lists. **Jessie Randall asked 15-year-old girls and came up with the following.** (The boys wouldn't cooperate so we hope they get a chunk of coal.)

- HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS**
- CDs: *Pure Disco II*, Mariah Carrey's *Butterfly*, *Ultimate Dance Party 1998*  
 Money (mentioned a lot)  
 Picture frames  
 Good smelling candles  
 Gift certificates to stores like Hudson's, Body & Bath Works, The Gap, American Eagle, etc.  
 Bath beads, lotions  
 Hair care products, hair ties, head bands, etc.  
 Flannel pajamas Stationary  
 Makeup, makeup case, nail polish,  
 Jewelry: earrings, necklaces, rings  
 Perfume: *Tommy Girl*, *Vanilla Fields*, *Contradiction*  
 Down Comforter Diskman  
 Red Wings tickets (Jessie's favorite on her list)  
 Subscriptions to magazines: Seventeen, YM, Teen  
 Exercise Videos  
 Movies: Men in Black, Dirty Dancing, Disney's  
 Shoes (heels are good) Clothes  
 Snowglobes (one of the items on Jessie's list)  
 Telephone and/or own phone line  
 VCR Television Desk lamp  
 Roller blades  
 Purse Wallet Watch  
 Gift certificates to fast food places  
 Suede jacket Sunglasses  
 A Car (we can dream, can't we?)  
 Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul (It's a book)  
 Calendars Candy  
 Subscription to America Online  
 Camera (preferably with film) Camcorder  
 Exercise equipment, exercise bike, tread mill, weights  
 Volleyball (a net would be nice, too)

**Eighth grader, Kelli Randall asked 13-year-old friends. Here's their list:**

- Ashley — CDs: Jewel, Robyn, Third Eye Blind, Sugar Ray, Chumbaumba, Mighty, Mighty Bosstores, etc.  
 Rachelle — Portable Diskman  
 Clothes: Jeans, wind pants, sweat shirts, coats, etc.  
 Heather — Shoes: Doc Martins  
 Cara — Jewelry: Hemp necklaces, rings, earrings, anklets, etc. Amber — TV and VCR for bedroom  
 CD Player Makeup: Colored mascara, sparkles  
 Beauty products: Bath beads, body lotions Hair mascara: Blue, silver, red, purple Nail polish: Blues, purples, greens Lisa — Telephone for bedroom  
 Megan — A Horse (American Saddlebred)  
 Lisa — Laptop, FAX and copy machine, cell phone  
 Card games Gift Certificates Scented Candles  
 Kelli — Nintendo 64 and games for N64: Diddy Kong Racing, Mario Kart, Star Fox, Wave Race, Mario 64, etc. Rachelle — Nike/Adidas gear  
 Christine — Wee Beanies Sheila — Play Station  
 Katie — Lava Lamp Elizabeth — Guitar  
 Watch Books: Mystery, adventure Sleds  
 Movies: Men in Black, Liar Liar  
 Posters: Movie themes, animals, nature scenes  
 Spending money Large trampoline  
 Kelli — Strobe lights, black lights, disco balls  
 Magazines: YM, Teen, Seventeen  
 Sport Balls: Footballs, volleyballs, basketballs  
 Lisa — Computer, computer programs: 3-D, Home Architect, Doom Color printer  
 Pets: Cats, dogs, ferrets, lizards  
 Art Supplies: Glitter markers, colored paper, smelly markers

**Daniel Randall (who is 10 almost 11-years-old, asked his friends in fifth grade:**

- Craig wants a football Andrew — Sega Saturn  
 Shantelle — CD by Marilyn Manson  
 Andrew — Snowboard  
 Tom — Snowboard and \$1,000  
 Danielle — Dirt bike  
 Mike — Football  
 Mrs. Brinker — CD by Mozart  
 Jamie — CD by Marilyn Manson  
 Brian — Snowboard Joel — Nintendo 64  
 Mr. Fielder — MSU to win the Bowl game, Aloha!  
 Jordan — Tyco Rebound remote control race car  
 Ryan — Play Station  
 Samantha — CD player  
 Mrs. Walkowe — For the family to be together  
 Emily — Game Boy Bryan — Dirt Bike  
 Aaron — Stuffed Animal

**Editor: Now — when you get everything you absolutely wanted for Christmas, please thank Jessie Randall, Kelli Randall and Daniel Randall**

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**JAMES A. WATSON, D.D.S.**  
 and staff

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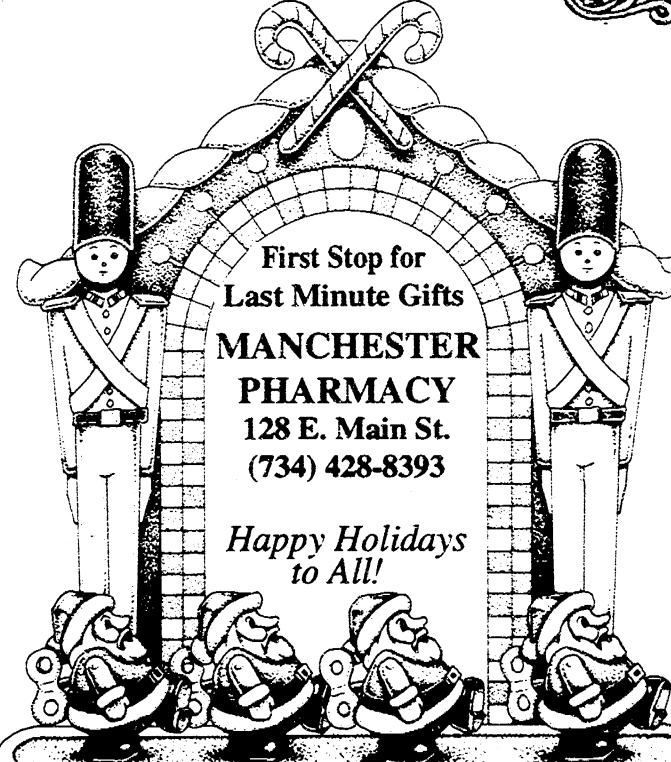


May your home be filled with the joy and love of the holiday season.  
 Ron and Jan Burrows

First Stop for Last Minute Gifts

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Happy Holidays to All!




Wishing you the joys of the season

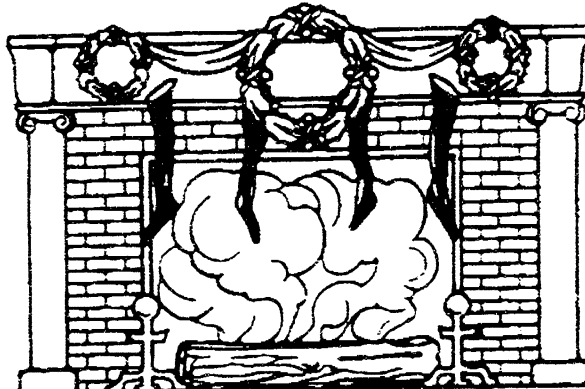
Keith and Terry

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"...and the stockings were hung by the chimney with care..." May the blessings of this special season be with you and your families. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Dr. Julie Manders and Kathy Gould



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 Dr. Julie Marvin-Manders  
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# STU EVANS

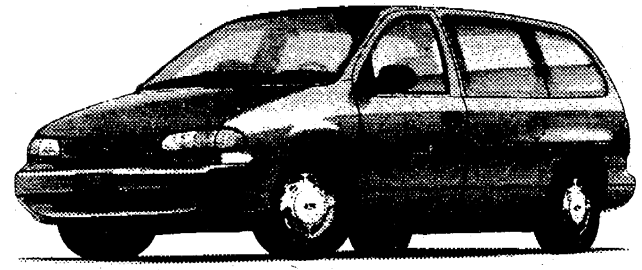
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Monthly Use Tax.....	17.91
Total Monthly Payment.....	316.48
Refundable Security Deposit.....	325.00
Customer Cash Down.....	1,000.00
Tax on Rebate & Down Payment.....	150.00
Customer Pays at Signing.....	1,791.48
Total of Payments Without Tax.....	7,165.68
Total Mileage Allowed.....	24,000
Mileage Penalty.....	15¢/mile
Closed End Lease	

#### RED CARPET LEASE ADVANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM 24 MONTHS \$7341.84\*

Monthly Use Tax .....	\$22.10
Customer Pays at Signing.....	7,872.24
Total Mileage Allowed .....	24,000
Mileage Penalty .....	15¢/mile
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## URGENT: PROGRAMS END JANUARY 5, 1998

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4.0L, 6 Cyl., Automatic, Pkg. 934A, 4x4, AM/FM Stereo with CD Player, Premium Sports Package,  
Chrome Wheels, Sport Bucket Seats, Power Windows and Locks, Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, Air Conditioning

#### RETAIL LEASE 24 MONTHS \$292.00\*

Monthly Use Tax.....	17.53
Total Monthly Payment.....	309.55
Refundable Security Deposit.....	325.00
Customer Cash Down.....	1,000.00
Tax on Rebate & Down Payment.....	60.00
Customer Pays at Signing.....	1,694.55
Total of Payments W/out Tax.....	7,008.00
Total Mileage Allowed.....	24,000
Mileage Penalty.....	15¢/mile
Closed End Lease	

#### RED CARPET LEASE ADVANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM 24 MONTHS \$6588.48\*

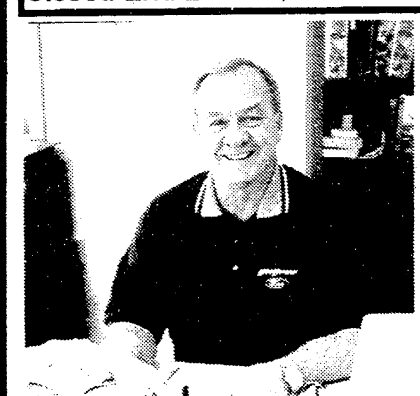
Monthly Use Tax .....	\$395.28
Customer Pays at Signing.....	6,983.76
Total Due at Inception.....	6,983.76
Total Mileage Allowed .....	24,000
Mileage Penalty .....	15¢/mile
Closed End Lease	

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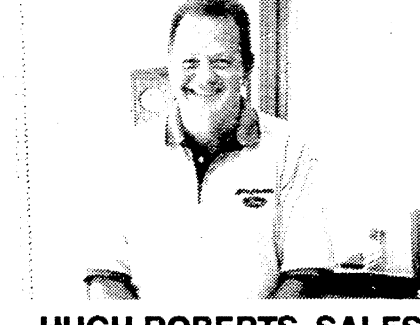
DON KNUTSON, SALES



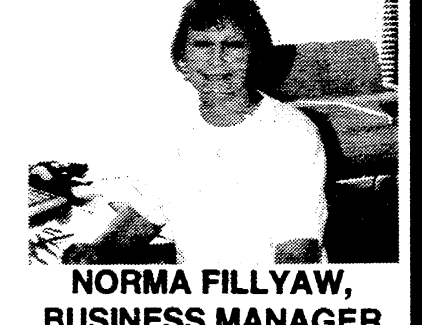
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