

Gifts From The Wild May Be Priceless

My Christmas gift to you, the readers of this outdoor column, is not one of material worth though it may be priceless if put to proper use.

Besides, I don't have the means to send a wrapped gift to all my readers for I don't know where you live or even who you are—though we travel avenues of mutual concern.

But I want to give you a gift in this traditional time for gift giving. I want it to be a true gift, one I can give to all and can take from none. Of course, such a gift could not be labelled with a price tag or expiration date.

My gift is not a new one though it is new for all who receive it for the first time. I have been giving away this same gift for decades to anyone who will accept it as a gift.

I can afford this ambient generosity because this gift is one of the heart and spirit. Certainly these are the prerequisites of any true gift if it is to be of any worth to the giver and receiver.

Too often we hear people cry out, "I'm glad Christmas is over!" What they are saying is that they

are glad the pressure of giving—of searching, buying, wrapping and mailing—of being forced into doing what they do not enjoy doing—is over for another year. Now they can get back to being one-centered instead of other centered.

Giving is a refreshing reprieve

NORTH COUNTRY

EDWIN REID



from the getting for one's self-drive." On the other hand, most of us enjoy giving when we are sure of what we are giving.

A true gift involves not only the giver and the receiver but the gift

as well. All profit by this mutual concern and union. For instance, the giver is satisfied that the gift is pleasing to the receiver and rejoices within and in overt expressions at the moment of giving; the receiver in turn considers how the gift will enhance his life and appreciates this proof of interest from another; and in return, the gift is handled with the kind of respect and dignity the purchased item seldom receives.

So my gift to all of you of the outdoors is this giving message: think not of speckled trout you hood in the deep, clear pools and play into your waiting hand net as legal booty there for wanton taking, but as beautiful gifts, now and then surrendered from the wilds.

View the wilds as a gift giver and its varied gifts will always receive the respect they deserve—and their procurement will be cherished as great moments of giving and receiving with dignity.

The issuance of a hunting and fishing license is not enough. A good attitude toward the wilds should also be included. Too often the possession of a license is inter-

preted as the right to plunder under the protection of the law.

Let us not forget that the best gift we can give to the wilds is to treat it, in all its aspects, as a cherished gift.

Public Record

A 17-year-old was charged Dec. 21 with petit larceny.

Bruce J. Sullivan, 35, Canton, charged Dec. 29 with speed not reasonable.

Scott P. Garris, 24, Winthrop, charged Dec. 27 with speeding.

Mark H. VanBenschoten, 25, Ogdensburg, charged Dec. 26 with uninspected motor vehicle.

Sally Belmore, 41, Norwood, charged Dec. 24 with failure to yield right of way.

Gordon B. Stevens, 55, Potsdam, charged Dec. 24 with writing a bad check.

William A. Cordwell, 19, Potsdam, charged Dec. 23 with speeding, unlicensed operation.

Alan Lew Crandall, 19, Canton, charged Dec. 22 with unlawful possession of marijuana, aggravated unlicensed operation, third degree, speeding.

Joseph A. Marsh, 35, Canton, charged Dec. 24 with speeding.



PLAYGROUND DONATION — Bonnie Bishop, assistant vice president and manager of Marine Midland Bank, Potsdam, presents a check for the Norwood Playground to Ed Wilson, manager of Great American, Potsdam. (Betsy Baker photo)

NEWSBRIEF

The next high school equivalency exam will be given Jan. 23 and 24, 1987 at Seaway Area Tech Center, Norwood. All test takers should

report by 5 p.m. on Friday evening.

Send all applications to: Learning Resources Center, P.O. Box 10, Norwood, N.Y. 13668.

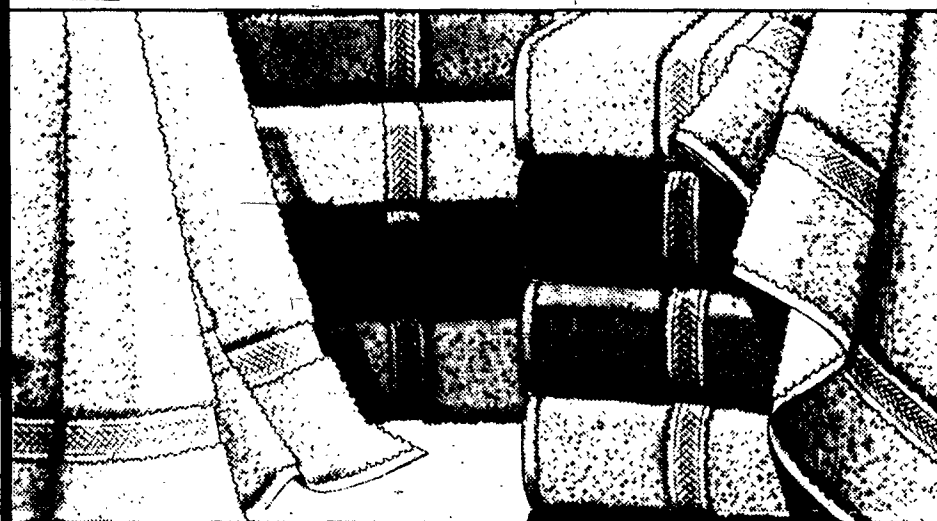
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