Gifts by You

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If you forgot to start knitting that sweater soon enough—or didn’t save enough of your summer’s earnings—or don’t have success shopping during Christmas vacation—or want something extra-special to give to those extra special somebodies on your Christmas gift list (Don’t we all fit here?) . . .

YOU MAY TRY TO BE A CARPENTER

And if you do, you have a lucky niece or nephew who will never guess that his aunt thought she couldn’t even pound a nail straight. A tiny red play chair for Jimmy Under Four holds a wealth of play treasures. Start with a sturdy wooden box measuring no larger than a foot on each side. Reinforce one side of the box with a board the width of the box. This extends to make a back for the chair. Make a trap door that opens with a hinge on the top of the seat. This is where you’ll hide a tiny tin soldier or a rubber ball. Pad the entire chair and tack leatherette over the padding. An easily removable cushion, secured by screen door hooks, covers the toy catch-all.

For future reference—a handy play table to match. The base is a nail keg covered like the chair. You can have a top for the table sawed at the lumber yard with a round saw. Nail it to the keg, conceal holes with wood filler, sand the surface and varnish.

. . . BUT YOUR SPECIALTIES MAY COME FROM THE KITCHEN . . .

And we’ll bet that a second batch of this creamy chocolate ambrosia will be a present from you to yourself. Your Christmas shopping for this gift means a trip to the grocery store for an 8 oz. jar of marshmallow fluff, 2 packages of chocolate chips, a tall can of evaporated milk, 1/4 lb. of butter and some nuts. Stir the evaporated milk, butter and four cups of sugar until it boils to soft ball stage. Remove from the flame and add chips, marshmallow fluff, nuts, and vanilla to taste. It’s as easy as whistling “Jingle Bells.”

. . . WHILE A TREE FULL OF GIFTS MAY BE MADE WITH A NEEDLE AND THREAD.

A pre-Christmas gift to Mother will make special holiday meals easier to prepare. It’s an apron with built-in pot holders. Use no dainty material for the triangular shaped apron large enough to cover the “Head of the Kitchen’s” skirt. Pockets are huge mit-shaped pads opening at the sides of the apron and just below the belt which ties in back. With hands in pockets, any hot dish can be picked up without the usual search for potholders.

Puffy earmuffs to keep out the cold and yackety-yack are fun to make. Begin with two huge lamb’s wool powder puffs which fit next to the ear. Using this diameter, cut two different snowflake patterns from paper. These patterns may be cut from old felt hats in two interesting colors. Lay one felt snowflake on an unlike one and attach both to the back of the powder puff. At the same time, stitch a tiny bell to the outside center of each earmuff. A plastic millinary clip that slips on your head and hugs the muff’s to your ears can be covered with felt strips.