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Turn Your Spare Time into Gifts

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Christmas comes but once a year—Oh my goodness! it's nearly here!

Christmas reminds me of Santa Claus and Santa Claus reminds me that I have ten million gifts to get for that many people. Now that I'm in school my allowance won't allow me to spend very much for gifts. The best thing for me to do is to make what I give this year. I must get started right away using all my spare moments.

Jane knits. That's easy. I'll make her a case for all those knitting needles she has. All I have to do is get a cardboard mailing tube, cut it about 12 inches long and cover it with bright orange cellophane to contrast with her brown knitting bag.

Aunt Betty knits. But have you noticed that she carried her knitting around in a paper sack? The remedy for that is a knitting bag of monk's cloth with bright colored yarns woven into it. At most any department store I can find a wooden handle for it.

And I knit. So I'll make dad a heavy wool scarf for the below zero weather that's just around the corner.

That big brother of mine has been after me lately to make him a navy blue sleeveless sweater. I have already made my little sister a pair of brightly colored mittens so her hands won't freeze when she goes sledding. Oh yes, I mustn't forget to make my four-year-old cousin the red wool cap I promised him.

I crochet, too. I wonder if Jenny would like a purse this year? There are numerous kinds I might make, but I believe a rectangular one with a zipper would suit her best. A bright green bag would look stunning with her new black sport coat.

There's a new baby in the family. Have you seen those soft powder puff animals? All I need for them are some pink and yellow powder puffs of all sizes. Some are stitched for paws, folded for ears or twisted for tails. Eyes, nose, ears, mouth and whiskers are made from beads, yarn and round gummed notebook reinforcements.

For her room at school Peg has al-

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ways wanted a stuffed animal or two. That gives me an idea! From a pattern I saw recently I'll make a mama and a baby giraffe of red and white dotted cotton print. Maybe Helen would like a horse and a colt.

How in the world can I ever make anything for Louise? She is interested in nothing but parties and dances. Make a formal hat out of cellophane?

Or a tierra out of cellophane flowers? They could be made to match any of her numerous formals, couldn't they?

Around the house somewhere is an old-fashioned flat-iron. I'm going to lacquer it yellow and give it to Aunt Grace for a doorstop. If there were a pair of them I could make Uncle Ned some book ends for his still small collection of very old books.

Since Dorothy is taking textiles and clothing, I think I shall get some plain wooden buttons and carve a design in them. The buttons may be any shape, the design anything I choose.

Aunt Susan has become quite disgusted lately because I say I am learning how to cook at school, yet she has never tasted any of my cooking. You'll be surprised, Aunt Susan, when you receive the delicious steamed carrot pudding I am sending you for Christmas.

Making the jams and jellies has always been mother's job. This year I am going to surprise her and make some Christmas jam. The jars can be wrapped in figured tissue paper and tied with bright ribbon.

Why not make mother a recipe file with the latest recipes in it? There are all kinds of recipes in magazines, both in the articles and the advertisements. The recipes pasted on cards and filed would prove useful in varying the family menus.