

GENERAL SCIENCE

Low-Cost Science Christmas

You can stuff a Christmas stocking with a variety of science gifts for no more than the price of postage stamps, Judy Viorst reports.

► IF YOU ARE FACING a long Christmas list and a short supply of money, science gifts can answer many of your problems. SCIENCE SERVICE has examined thousands of materials and come up with a high-quality, low-cost selection of gift suggestions in every scientific field.

Kits, with their lots-of-things-in-one-package appeal, make particularly pleasing science Christmas presents.

Several kits for future paleontologists can be obtained from Science Materials Center, Inc., 59 Fourth Ave., New York 3, N.Y. The DINOSAUR AND FOSSIL KIT includes five samples of real fossils, as well as two dinosaur models and a 160-page book on dinosaurs (\$3). There is also a selection of plastic animal model kits, with 43 to 57 pieces in each kit—TYRANNOSAURUS REX (\$2), STEGOSAURUS (\$1.80), BRONTOSAURUS (\$1) and AMERICAN MASTODON (\$1).

Also available from Science Materials Center is a BASIC KIT OF SHELLS (\$3), with 25 specimens to supplement or begin a shell collection.

Young astronomers and geologists will delight in a METEORITE CRATER STUDY KIT, which has a number of intriguing materials, including the story of Arizona's Barringer crater and fragments of the giant meteorite that plunged into the desert thousands of years ago. The complete kit costs \$1.25, plus 14¢ postage, from the American Meteorite Laboratory, P.O. Box 2098, Denver, Colo.

Things of Science

Every science has its day in the THINGS of science KITS put out by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C. Each month there is a new assortment of materials and directions for experiments on such subjects as crystallization, static electricity, motors, color top, and ancient gem stones. The kits are 75¢ each, three for \$2, or you can make a gift of a year's subscription for \$5. Two special collections of THINGS kits are also available. For \$6.49 you can purchase 12 kits, with 67 different specimens and materials. Or order the 15-kit collection. There are 129 different specimens and materials represented, and the price is only \$7.97.

Toys, records and games—all with a scientific bent—can be purchased without making a serious dent in your Christmas budget.

A SATURN GYROSCOPE TOP that comes with its pedestal costs only \$1.74. It is sold by the Edmund Scientific Co., 101 East Gloucester Pike, Barrington, N.J.

From Naturegraph Co., Publishers, 8339 West Dry Creek Rd., Healdsburg, Calif.,

you can get fine recordings of bird songs on 78 rpm's—WESTERN BIRD SONGS, FLORIDA BIRD SONGS and THE MOCKING BIRD SINGS, each at \$2.50. The same company has butterfly and seashell games, tree games and games of rocks or animals, each priced at \$1.35.

Specimens and slides are always welcomed by young scientists. Inexpensive mineral specimens, with each stone identified, can be purchased from Shipley's Mineral House, Gem Village, Bayfield, Colo. A free Apache Tear comes with the minerals. You can get 15 specimens for 50¢, 18 specimens for 75¢, 24 for \$1, plus 35¢ postage.

Somewhere on your list there must be a boy or girl interested in insects, snakes, lizards, turtles, terrapins, birds, spiders, scorpions, centipedes, North American mammals, zoo animals or ocean life. If so, you probably will want to order several of the 50¢ two-by-two-inch color slides (35mm) that depict these creatures. They can be purchased from Filmscope, Inc., Box 397, Sierra Madre, Calif.

A collection of materials for the young scientist can be obtained from Harry Ross,

Scientific and Lab Apparatus, 61-L Reade St., New York 17, N.Y. A four-inch-diameter magnifier costs \$1 ppd.; the same sum will bring you 12 compasses. Or you can send for a little giant prism suitable for many optical experiments for \$1 plus 50¢ postage.

Science books and booklets can inexpensively fill up a library shelf. For instance:

On aeronautics: THE ARITHMETIC OF FLYING, A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A JET TEST PILOT, HELICOPTERS, AIRCRAFT NUMBER 116, 50¢ each, from the National Aviation Education Council, 1025 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

On anthropology: MAN: HIS FIRST MILLION YEARS, by Ashley Montagu, 50¢, available where paperback books are sold.

On atomic energy: LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS WITH RADIOISOTOPES, 35¢, and TEACHING WITH RADIOISOTOPES, 40¢, from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

On botany: GREEN FACTORIES, 20¢, from Cornell Science Leaflet, Mailing Room, Stone Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

On chemistry: EXPERIMENTING WITH CHEMISTRY and ORGANIC CHEMISTRY FOR THE HOME LAB, by Burton L. Hawk, \$2 each, and THE CHEMICAL ELEMENTS, by Helen Miles



SCIENCE BARGAIN—Low-cost science gifts bring a pleased look to Father's face as he anticipates Christmas.

Davis with revisions by Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, 55¢, from SCIENCE SERVICE, INC., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

On electronics: **FIRST BOOK OF RADIO AND ELECTRONICS**, \$3, **SECOND BOOK OF ELECTRONICS AND RADIO**, \$3, **ELECTRONIC EXPERIMENTER'S HANDBOOK**, \$1, **USING ELECTRONICS** \$2.50, from Science Materials Center, Inc., 59 Fourth Ave., New York 3, N.Y.

On mathematics: **MAGIC HOUSE OF NUMBERS**, by Irving Adler, 35¢, available where paperback books are sold.

On medicine: **FACING THE FACTS ABOUT CANCER and EPILEPSY—THE GHOST IS OUT OF THE CLOSET**, 25¢ each, from the Public Affairs Committee, Inc., 22 East 38th St., New York 16, N.Y.

On space: **ROCKETS INTO SPACE and OPERATION MOON**, 60¢ each, from Science Research Associates, 259 East Erie St., Chicago 11, Ill.

On zoology: **THE CARE OF TURTLES AND SMALL ALLIGATORS**, 20¢, **THE STORY OF ELEPHANTS**, 10¢, **HUMMINGBIRDS**, 10¢, **PLATYPUS AND ECHIDNA**, 15¢, from the New York Zoological Society, Bronx Park, New York 60, N.Y.

Thousands of other low-cost or no-cost science gift suggestions can be found in **WONDERFUL WORLD OF SCIENCE**. The paperback book may be purchased for 50¢ plus 5¢ postage from SCIENCE SERVICE, INC., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

If you want to be the biggest stocking-filler in town this Christmas, you can do so without spending more than postage-stamp money. Gift-worthy science materials—free of charge—will be sent on request from the following sources:

Space Jargon: **SPACE TALK**, a glossary of astronomical terms, from Republic Aviation Corp., Farmingdale, Long Island, N.Y.

Guide to photomicrography (single copy only): **SNAPSHOTS AND SLIDES THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE**, from the Eastman Kodak Co., Sales Service Division, 343 State St., Rochester 4, N.Y.

Colorful railroad-facts comic books: **THE WHEEL OF PROGRESS, RAILROADS DELIVER THE GOODS, RIDE THE HIGH IRON, SPECIAL AGENT, CLEAR THE TRACK, RAILS ACROSS AMERICA**, from the Association of American Railroads, Transportation Building, Washington 6, D.C.

World Book Encyclopedia reprints: **BEE AND ANT**, from the Field Enterprises Educational Corp., Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago 54, Ill.

Conservation materials: **JUNIOR FOREST RANGER KIT**, posters, stamps, book-marks, calendars, from Smokey Bear's Headquarters, Washington 25, D.C.

• Science News Letter, 80:322 November 11, 1961

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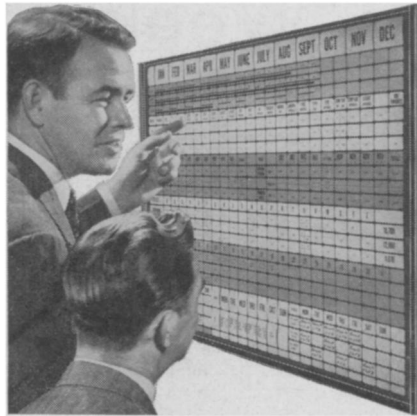
Last Call Goes Out for Science Talent Search

► **TEACHERS OF SENIORS** who intend to enter this year's Science Talent Search should immediately request examinations from SCIENCE SERVICE, Washington 6, D. C.

Parents with sons and daughters who intend to enter should remind teachers to request examinations.

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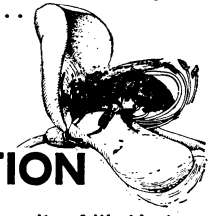
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B. J. D. MEEUSE, University of Washington

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Other Important Books in The RONALD SCIENCE LIBRARY

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The Secret of the Green Thumb. Henry T. Northen and Rebecca T. Northen. (155) \$6.00
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A Short History of the Plant Sciences. Howard S. Reed(165) \$6.50
- MAMMALS, BIRDS, REPTILIANS**
Ways of Mammals. Clifford B. Moore(146) \$4.00
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