



Record-Eagle/Greg Undeen

Dick Cookman sits in the window behind the Starblast Telescope at Enerdyne in Suttons Bay. The Starblast is an affordable beginner's telescope.

Smart toys

These toys will feed the brain and the imagination BY KRIS HAINS

At Enerdyne in Suttons Bay, owner Pat Cookman puts an emphasis on toys with meaning and educational value.

Cookman's husband, Dick, was an instructor at Northwestern Michigan College for 30 years, and he parlays his love of astronomy into many of the gift items available at Enerdyne. One of his picks for this year is the Starblast Telescope, a starter telescope that retails at about \$180. Enerdyne carries a variety of binoculars as well.

"Many telescopes aren't well chosen," she said. "They're cheap and they discourage people. We are very picky about what we sell."

One way that Cookman is breaking her rules this year is with the addition of dolls. In the past she has not carried them. However, a

new line caught her eye, and because of its positive message she decided to give them a go.

The "Only Hearts Club" dolls are Barbie-type dolls but according to Cookman are "modeled with pre-teen proportions."

The dolls have a motto to think with their hearts and to not be mean, something Cookman thinks is an important message for young girls.

"Girls need that role to model," she said.

There are six dolls in all, and each has her own interest including horses, ballet and veterinary medicine.

A perennial favorite at Enerdyne is the category that Cookman refers to as "investigation." These gifts challenge the mind and allow the child to investi-

gate certain processes. One of Cookman's favorites is called "Owl Puke," which allows the child to investigate what exactly is in an owl pellet. (When owls eat, their bodies eat the whole food, bones and all, and their body compresses it into a pellet, which they then regurgitate). The fun of "Owl Puke"



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With Silky Crayon, kids can draw or paint.

is taking that apart and figuring out what it originally was.

Like investigation, craft kits are popular year after year. One new item on that scene is "Silky Crayons." Unlike traditional crayons, these glide across the paper and can either be left as is or can be smeared to act more like water colors.

Cookman is also anticipating high sales of the book "Lost in the Woods." The book, by Carls Sams and Jean Stoick, is the sequel to their "Stranger in the Woods." "Lost in the Woods" features a companion plush fawn who is the main character in the story.

"That one should be outstanding," she said of the combination book and plush. Enerdyne has autographed copies of books on hand.