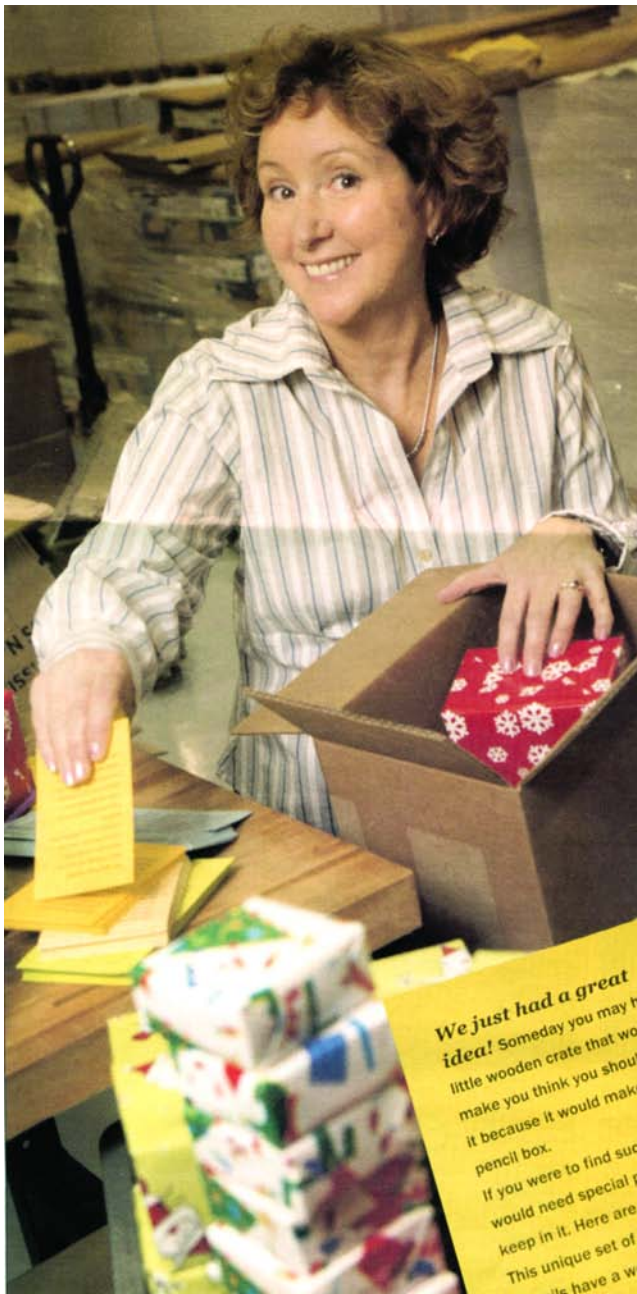


Executive Life

Office gifts unwrapped



While **Tepel Bros. Printing Co.** in Troy thanks its employees with a fun and festive party and a special gift, the 17-year old firm also sends a special holiday package to some 400 clients. "We never looked at it as a chance to slap our company logo on something," said Harriet Tepel, vice president. "We just want to express our genuine, heart-felt thanks."

Tepel, who owns the company with her husband Jim, selects the 15 items that go into each of the 400 gift boxes. "On their own, they are not a big deal," she said of the individually wrapped items that range in price from \$1 to \$10.

The assortment typically includes unusual candies, specialty food items, and something Christmas-related. "What everyone really likes are the notes attached to each gift," Tepel said. "I write a tidbit about what it is, where we found it, a little bit about the history behind it."

"We just want to show we appreciate them," Tepel said of the holiday gestures for both clients and employees. "It's all about thanking the people who are good (to the company) all year."

We just had a great idea! Someday you may have a little wooden crate that would make you think you should save it because it would make the perfect pencil box. If you were to find such a box you would need special pencils to keep in it. Here are our favorites. This unique set of colored and No. 2 pencils have a wonderful graphic print and a novel design.

JOHN F. MARTIN
Harriet Tepel, vice president of Tepel Bros. Printing Co. in Troy, expresses thanks to clients by sending a package of 15 hand-selected items to each one. Notes (right) explaining the significance of each of the gifts are also included.