

A cute, cuddly gift for youngsters



By Tresa Erickson

You want to get your niece something for Christmas, but because she is just a few months old, you're not sure what to buy her. She appears to have more than enough clothes, blankets and toys. You'd like to get her something she can use when she is older. As you look around your bedroom, you spy the perfect idea – your very first teddy bear perched on top of the armoire. That's it. You're going to buy your niece her first teddy bear.

Amazingly, the first teddy bears did not appear in America until 1902. While on a trip to settle a border dispute between Mississippi and Louisiana, President Theodore Roosevelt went bear hunting. The president did not have a good hunt, so his hosts brought in a cub and offered it to him to shoot. Ever the good sportsman, Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear.

Upon his return to Washington, D.C., word of the president's trip spread and Clifford Berryman drew a cartoon of him refusing to shoot the bear, which ran in *The Washington Post* and several other papers. The cartoon was such a hit that a couple in New York, Morris and Rose Michtom, decided to make their own rendition of

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