



Handmade, hand-dipped chocolates from Stafford's Famous Chocolates are a sweet way to say "I love you" to that special person in your life.

RECORDER PHOTOS
BY JOHN TIPTON

Norm Grimsley shows off many of the edible and huggable valentines that can be purchased at Norm's Ice Cream Parlor on Main Street.

RECORDER PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER



Larry Stafford shows a heart-shaped box that would hold about 10 pounds of his handmade chocolates.

Selective shopping can make the holiday special for a loved one

By DARLA WELLES
THE PORTERVILLE RECORDER

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about sweets for those sweethearts. Traditionally, the holiday is linked with chocolate and all things pink and red and sweet like heart-shaped cookies with decorative icing and cakes, filled or topped with rosy berries.

Sometimes it takes a lot of fuss to turn out homemade versions of these Valentine treats, not to mention time that's hard to find in busy daily schedules.

And face it, few and far between are the people of the male persuasion who are likely to be found in the kitchen molding chocolate into candy hearts or rolling out cookie dough.

Still, grabbing a box of mass-manufactured candy off the shelf or fetching a cake from the freezer section at the market seems so ordinary for a holiday that's supposed to be a celebration of romance.

So it's perfectly all right at this time of year to leave it to the pro-



Frosted butter cookies from Frank's Fine Pastry send a loving message to that special someone.

fessionals and buy those sweets — if you shop for something special.

Fortunately the Porterville area is blessed with a variety of shops that provide high-quality products suitable for the occa-

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