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Kitchen-Klatter

(Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.)

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KITCHEN-KLATTER MAGAZINE

"More Than Just Paper And Ink"

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LETTER FROM LEANNA



Dear Friends:

I have been reading radio mail since supper and marvel, as I always do, at the wonderful warm glow of friendliness that these letters radiate. Again I feel grateful that you take time to write to us here at Driftmiers, for I know how busy many of you are.

This past month has been a busy one here, too. The weather has been ideal for fall planting and I couldn't resist putting in more tulips although every time we put the spade in the ground I watched to see if we had dug into any of the bulbs that had been planted in other years.

One really should mark the places where bulbs have been planted. We all know this but it seems hard, for some reason, to get this done. Finally I had a bright idea on the subject: I sorted out the colored slides of our yard in tulip time so that I could see the location and color of what had bloomed in previous years. This gave me a good clue as to our fall planting that we're just now winding up.

Russell tried something new that he told me about the other day. He put a piece of moth ball in the hole where he planted the bulbs—it's supposed to keep field mice from eating the bulbs and it's also supposed to discourage moles from tunneling near them. I'll let you know next year if it works.

It is wonderful to be home again. You may recall that my last letter to you was mailed from Portsmouth, N. H. We enjoyed our short stay there very much for our cousins, whom we visited, have lived in Portsmouth for years and could tell us the history of all the wonderful old Tory houses.

During the Revolutionary War, Portsmouth was a Tory stronghold, and great pines from the nearby forests furnished lumber for the British navy. These old days of Portsmouth's glory have departed, but evidences of early wealth and luxury are the many mansions built by pirates and merchantmen. Many of these beautiful places are still occupied by the descendants of the builders.

From Portsmouth we took the turnpike to Portland, the largest city in Maine. There we saw the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow which

is surrounded by a beautiful old garden.

However, I neglected to mention that on the way to New Hampshire we spent several hours in Plymouth, Mass., the site of the first permanent English settlement in America. We saw Plymouth Rock and the replica of one of the first homes. I imagine that many of you have visited this town and also feel grateful that these historic spots are being cared for.

It was cranberry picking time on Cape Cod and we saw acres of fields (I believe they call them bogs) of cranberries. The men used a picker that looked like a rake with a pan attached. With this they combed the bushes, rattling the berries off into the pan. We passed by a large plant where cranberry jelly is made (perhaps you have a jar of it on your shelves right now!) and also tasted a delicious jelly made from a wild beach plum that grows on the Cape.

We planned our visit in Bristol so that we could attend three Sunday services in the church where Frederick is minister. The church building is of stone and is covered with ivy. At one side, as is the custom in many New England towns, there is an old cemetery with inscriptions dating back to 1690. The parish house is near the church. It contains Frederick's study, a dining room, kitchen, parlor and recreation rooms. This building is several blocks from Frederick's home.

We were so glad that we could meet Mr. and Mrs. Julius Crandall, Betty's parents, and her brother Bob and his wife. All of them live at Ashaway, Rhode Island where Mr. Crandall has the Ashaway Line and Twine Factory. They make all kinds of fish lines and equipment (if you have an ardent fisherman in the family there's a good chance that he has some equipment made in this factory), surgical thread, and much of the nylon twine used by the armed forces. This factory was started by Mr. Crandall's ancestors more than one hundred years ago, and their products are used all over the world.

We had promised our family that we would be back home by October 7th, so we left Bristol on Monday, October 1st. We wanted to visit Niagara Falls so drove through Massachusetts, crossing the Hudson River at Albany, N. Y. The ride through New York on highway No. 20 was one of the most beautiful I have ever taken.

The rolling hills, the little hamlets, the mirror-like lakes, the far reaching valleys where cattle grazed, the well-kept farms with their large dairy barns—yes, New York is a beautiful state.

We stayed all night at Waterville and reached Niagara Falls about noon on Tuesday. Mart parked our car opposite the Falls, and then I got into my wheel chair and he took me over to the railing so that I could look down and see the "Maid of the Mist" plying its way through the whirling water, and see the clouds of mist which at night are lighted by colored floodlights.

Oh yes, we crossed over into Canada just so I could say that I had set foot on foreign soil!

Tuesday afternoon we drove through Buffalo and on to Jamestown, N. Y., where we spent the night. I believe that the most beautiful colored foliage we saw on our trip was along the highway from Jamestown to Canton, Ohio. The road follows the Allegheny River for miles and miles, and on either side were high bluffs so brilliantly colored in orange, red, yellow and brown that they looked as if an Oriental rug had been thrown over them.

Thursday we got an early start and drove as far as El Paso, Ill., and then on Friday we came on home to Shenandoah in time to eat supper on our own kitchen table. We breathed a prayer of Thanksgiving that we were safely home, although we told the family that we had never taken a trip when we had seen more courteous and careful drivers. Perhaps all of the articles and radio publicity we've read and heard on "Safe Driving" are actually accomplishing a great deal.

Lucile and Margery hadn't expected us until Saturday and had planned to clean the house and get in groceries, but we thought that Howard had kept everything up in such good shape that there really wasn't much to do. We even found plenty of food in the refrigerator for he had been getting some of his meals at home.

If nothing unforeseen happens our son Donald will soon have served his time in the Air Force and will be back at his job in Anderson, Indiana. We hardly dare hope he can be home for Christmas!

The girls said they had a wonderful time broadcasting Kitchen-Klatter while I was gone, and from your letters I know you enjoyed their programs. Margery has to hustle around in the morning to prepare breakfast and get necessary things done so that she can drive from Essex and be here in time for the program, but she says she looks forward to the morning ride and when she gets back home feels like pitching into her housework again.

Christmas will be here before we know it, so here is a Christmas wish I'd like to send to you:

"Of all good things that Christmas brings,

The old ones and the new,
I hope you'll find the nicest kind
Are coming straight to you.

Merry Christmas to all" ... Leanna.

DECORATING THE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

By Ethel Broendel

When Old Man Winter sends his voice wailing down the north wind and we look out at whirling snow, our first thought is, "Oh, I hope it lasts for Christmas!" We seem to feel instinctively that white is the really true Christmas color, and no one feels so bitterly about snow that he doesn't hope (secretly, perhaps!) for a white Christmas.

More and more the trend seems to be back to the decorations of yesterday with its festoons of popcorn and cranberries, colorful paper chains, paper angels and Santas—things that the children can make. How well I remember the thrill of handling the unaccustomed needle and awkward thimble when I first threaded crimson cranberries and fluffy popcorn on long strands of store twine! And the smell! yes, and the taste, too, of library paste as I fastened together strips of gaily colored paper!

If you are one of those who buy a tree much larger than you can ever set up in your home, you can use the branches you chop off for a nice swag or wreath for your door. Cut them into usable lengths, group them together so that you have a nice shapely swag, and fasten in place with strong wire or twine. Be sure that you draw the wire tightly and fasten it securely, for there is nothing sadder than an evergreen piece that sags and gradually falls apart. Evergreens are happy plants, so let's keep them looking happy.

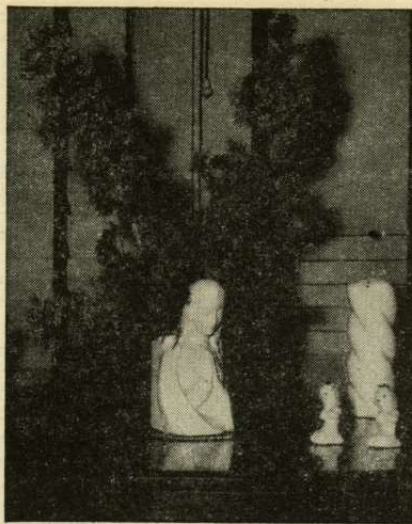
When your swag is assembled, fasten into it here and there with short lengths of wire, clusters of tiny red Christmas tree balls about 5/8 inch in diameter, and small pine cones tipped with white paint. Brush the evergreen in scattered areas with lacquer or a thin solution of paste, and while it is still wet sprinkle with mica snow or glitter dust from the paint store.

Such a swag really needs brilliant ribbon to set it off, so tie with a huge bow of crimson weather-proof ribbon, the ends cut diagonally for a smart effect. You may purchase this weather-proof ribbon from the florist, and it's an investment worth making for it will last many years.

A large evergreen wreath calls for heavy wire, but a wire coathanger bent into a circle will do for a small one. The hook can be bent over and used to hang the wreath when finished.

Start at the top of the circle and use short bits of evergreen to wrap the stem to the wire frame with fine wire (twine string may be used if you don't have wire), remembering to pull the wire or twine tightly as you wrap, and keep the wrapping fairly close together. After wrapping around the stem a couple of times, lay another sprig of greens over the first, and back and to one side a little; continue wrapping and layering in this manner until you have completed the circle.

Fasten the last bit securely, and if you have done your job well, you will have a full, fluffy wreath with no



Ruth Ahlgren made this lovely decoration for her grand piano. Behind the madonna are sprays of evergreen, and one large pure white candle, plus the two small angel candles balance it perfectly.

stems or wire showing. Clip off any contrary stem that juts out to spoil the smooth round outline.

Juniper, arborvitae, yew and box, are best for small wreaths. If you have plantings of these around your home, reserve this time of year to prune them and use the tips you remove for evergreen arrangements indoors.

To add color to your wreaths, small shellaced apples and gourds, small oranges, kumquats, cranberries, and hawthorne fruits gathered early and stored in a cool place for winter use, can be combined with lovely effects.

I love the clusters of holly, bitter-sweet, and small shapely pine cones, white-tipped or not, for the decorative note in wreaths. A huge red bow, and to me it spells Christmas! A short sprig of long-needed pine and a few large cones from which small bells are suspended on long bright red streamers of uneven length gives a cheery greeting to the passerby. Frosting some pieces with mica snow adds to their attractiveness, but equally lovely are the wreaths unfrosted.

Long evergreen roping will always be in favor for the fireplace mantel. To make this, proceed as you did for the wreath. If you make it on rope, cut the length a little longer than the finished garland is to be since the wrapping of the material seems to draw it up a little.

When you have reached the end, turn the last pieces in the opposite direction, concealing the woody twigs and making sure that your wrapping material doesn't show. Fasten very tightly and securely, and if your job is super you will have concealed the rope all around with a cloaking of evergreen. Then, draped over the mantel, if its dangling ends want to curl you won't have to care, for there won't be a wrong side to show.

Decorator's tape from the stationery department, or long homemade wire hooks to slip back of the mantel molding, will keep the garland in place. Scotch tape really isn't heavy enough to hold such a weight.

One of my favorite Christmas decorations is an arrangement in which I use a kneeling madonna, manger with Holy Infant, and a few sheep. I group them on a piece of snow-sprinkled cotton, and to the left of them I contrive a palm tree from two slender, papery pinecones wired together and secured on a needle-holder concealed beneath the cotton. With this grouping I use a white candle of proper height to give balance, and it is really lovely.

It won a blue ribbon for me one time at Garden club, and not until afterward did the judge miss Joseph! This year I hope to locate one.

Some people are uneasy when candles are used in close proximity with evergreen, so with this in mind I centered a refreshment table with a grouping of about seven white candles of different lengths—the tallest in the center, the shortest on the outside. These were placed in a low glass bowl (the kind that turns down around the opening like a six-inch collar), using a block of wood bored with holes to anchor them.

I used non-inflammable cotton and tucked it between the candles and draped it over the bowl down onto the table—this gave the effect of candles rising from a mound of snow. From the edges of the cotton I placed sprays of pine and pfitzer from my yard in a diagonal pattern, and used artificial holly berries and "snow tipped" pine cones with them.

Another time, being swamped until the last moment, I managed a lovely table using angel hair and a few Christmas tree balls. I pulled the angel hair apart until it was like goassamer, and then entirely covered the before-mentioned bowl with it; I made a sort of nest in the center and filled it with colored Christmas tree balls—angel hair was pulled over them and they gleamed through beautifully.

In low holders, at the four corners I placed white candles. Over each one I slipped a star like we use behind Christmas tree lights and drew the angel hair high around the base of the candles; this concealed the holders. A sprig or two of silver leaves and thistles (which were made from aluminum foil) and the light sprinkling of "snow" and the effect was that of a rosy, heavenly cloud.

A fire crackling in the fireplace is even more cheering if the flames are colored. Chemicals for this purpose can be added to shellac and painted on the wood, or added to water and newspapers soaked in the solution, twisted into sticks and then dried. Some lumber companies sell bricks of pressed sawdust which will produce these colors when tucked in with your burning logs.

But when it's all said and done, everything pertaining to Christmas is joyful, be it artistic or not, and no matter what you "do" to your house it's bound to have a happy look through the holidays.

One kind of trouble is enough. Some folks take three kinds at once: all they have now, all they have had, and all they ever expect to have.



CHRISTMAS TIME IS FOR CHILDREN

By Eileen Derr

Christmas is a wonderful time for children. The weeks of waiting, wishful thinking, secrecy and suspense—can't we all remember what a wonderful feeling it was? But this same glorious feeling of anticipation, plus participation, is what makes Christmas doubly joyous for little ones.

I'll admit it is a bit wearing on the nerves. And patience and even-temper have ways of flying right out the window. It really would be *much* easier to shoo the children outdoors to play or just wait until they are in bed and you can do it peacefully by yourself. Yet, there is something we lose by denying ourselves the help of our little folk at Christmas time.

Christmas at our house is one great hullabaloo. It starts fully two months before December 25th. By the time the great day actually gets here, we are hard put to wade through the debris that has accumulated in the weeks before. Such a mess of painted, cooked, scissored, colored, be-ribboned and be-decked miscellaneous articles you never saw!

We have nut-picking, date stuffing, taffy pulling, cookie decorating. We make colored popcorn balls, Christmas tree decorations, and wreaths (last year we had one on the back gate and one on the barn door!). Pine cones are gathered and dusted with silver and gold paint, the large ones for wreaths and tree decorations, the small ones for package adornment. Candles are in all the windows. Christmas murals sprawl across the walls.

We make gingerbread men and star cookies to hang on the tree. And we always have a Christmas tree cake: three graduated round cake layers topped with an inverted ice cream cone, the whole covered with green cocoanut and studded with candles stuck in red maraschino cherries. Since the children have charge of the baking and decoration, the symmetry isn't always perfect. But the general impression is good!

Our tree, which comes to us each year by parcel post from the pasture of a friend in the state of Oregon, resembles no other tree in the world. Everyone decorates it according to his own impulses with no regard whatsoever to visual balance—which means that in the end we have a tree so decorated that no room is left for packages. But to quote a past remark of a three year old: "It's the most beautiful tree in the world."

Children like to give things as well as to receive. It may be no more than a sticky popcorn ball formed with grimy little hands, painstakingly wrapped and tied with awkward little fin-

gers, but most Grandmothers will accept these things in the spirit in which they are given. As they grow older there are many things they can make with their hands that will be genuinely appreciated as gifts to family and friends.

Two activities at our house which the children love are window and Christmas card decoration. For decorating windows we remove the shades leaving the top half of the window bare. Then the children cover this top half with snow scenes painted on with white liquid shoe polish.

Using small bits of absorbent cotton to apply the polish they fashion rustic scenes that are really beautiful when viewed at night from outside a lighted window. Cake coloring is used to color small portions of the white shoe polish so that blue skies, yellow moons, brown houses and fences, green fir trees and red Santas may be simulated. When the holidays are over these scenes may be removed with a soft cloth leaving the window shining clean.

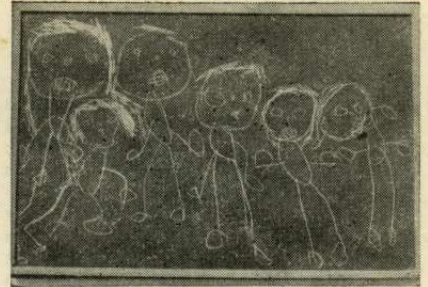
These same snow scenes, when transferred by small hands to correspondence cards with crayons, paints or spatter ink, make lovely rustic Christmas cards for sending to special friends of the family. They will be accepted with a touch of sentiment not experienced from the receipt of a more artistically finished commercial card.

With the aid of old Christmas cards for cut-outs and ideas, marvelous cards can be concocted from spatter paint, stencils, poster paint, india ink and plenty of adult guidance. We generally make about two hundred of these cards each year.

First, the card is designed. (I generally do this with the aid of suggestions and comments from the rest of the family.) This sample card is designed to fit a certain size envelope which we buy before we begin making the cards. We found out the hard way that this is the best way to arrange it. (One year we made all the cards and then couldn't find envelopes to fit!) A number of years ago we bought tiny manila coin envelopes and then had cards cut from colored bristol board to fit the envelopes. Any school supply house or printing company will cut these cards for you in the size you want. Another year, white note cards edged in gold were purchased in their envelopes as basic material for decoration.

Really, it is amazing, the ideas one can stir up from studying Christmas illustrations and the ideas that will come to one from the oddest sources. This year our cards will be adorned with finished prints of a chalk stickman drawing of all six members of our family. This drawing was rendered for us by our four year old Nina early last spring. It was such a comical thing that I picked up the blackboard on which it was drawn, took it outdoors into the sun and then made a snapshot of it. It turned out nicely, so reprints will be pasted on white cards, signed and stamped for mailing by the other small members of our family.

Last year we ordered stiff white note cards from a stationary company printed with "Greetings from the



In her article Eileen Derr explains this drawing made by four year old Nina.

Derrs" with facsimiles of the family depicted by six stick-men ice skaters. The array of arms and legs were topped with pumpkin seed heads on which features were drawn with india ink. Hats and scarfs sprayed with spatter paint through cut-to-scale stencils completed the wintery scene.

(Lucile's note: We received one of these cards from the Derrs last year and thought it was just about the cleverest home-made Christmas greeting we had ever seen.)

Another year we carved an angel child and the letters N O E L (which represented the name of our youngest son as well as an appropriate Christmas greeting) on the flat surface of a potato. The potato was pressed in poster paint and then applied with pressure to a card, leaving a Christmasy imprint there. Our ideas for next year? Who knows!

The children of our family are responsible for displaying the many beautiful cards that we receive each year. These cards are not left to clutter up table tops, nor do they fill a box or go into the waste basket. No, they form a part of our holiday decorating plan.

One wall is reserved as a place of honor for all our Christmas cards and letters. They are hung horizontally on long strings of carpet warp secured at each end with thumb tacks. We can see and admire them all at once, any time of the day, all during the Christmas season. The arrival of our morning mail during Christmas card time is an event much looked forward to.

Of course, in all of this six-sided activity we have burned cookies, lopsided trees, messy packages and a decidedly cluttered house. Few of our results could scarcely be considered a dream by any serious minded home decorator. But when all events are placed upon the scales collectively, they weigh heavily in favor of family fun, long to be remembered in years to come.

CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

It is Christmas in the mansion,
Yule-log fires and silken frocks;
It is Christmas in the cottage,
Mother's filling little socks.

It is Christmas on the highway,
In the thronging, busy mart;
But the realest truest Christmas
Is the Christmas in the heart.

—Unknown



THE DRIFTMIERS IN RHODE ISLAND SEND HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Dear Friends:

Recently a very good friend of mine wrote and told me of her concern for her eighteen year old boy who is now a freshman in college. He made his first visit home since he entered college in September, and the stories he told his parents of drinking, gambling, and all night parties that went on in the college group distressed his mother greatly.

She wrote and asked me if I thought she should take her boy out of the college and send him somewhere else. Thinking that you might be interested in what I would have to say on this matter, I want to quote to you a part of the letter that I wrote to this mother just a few minutes ago.

"Your Bob came home last weekend to talk to you in the same way that thousands of college freshmen have gone home to talk to their parents about their first impressions of college life. Of course you were startled, and so were thousands of other parents! College freshmen always go home and talk like that, and how grown up and adult they feel when they see that their dear parents are concerned about the wicked, wicked world that they have sent their child into.

"Believe me, Helen, things are not as bad as Bob painted them. Oh, I know that they are bad enough; there is far too much of that sort of thing in college and university circles, but all parents should discount about 50% from every "wild life story" told them by their college freshmen.

"By the end of the school year I am willing to bet that Bob will deny that conditions were ever as bad as he described them in the fall, and by the time he is a senior he will probably deny that he ever told you such stories at all!

"I definitely would not take Bob out of school now! If he were in the army as an eighteen year old draftee, you would not be able to take him back home again, and no matter how much drinking and gambling there is in college, it cannot compare to the carousing that goes on in the army and navy.

"Bob has lived a very protected life until the present time, and now he must face the world as it really is. If you have trained your son well for the first eighteen years of his life, you do not have to worry about his falling into evil ways in the armed services or in college. All of his life he is going to have opportunities to go wrong, and he will find out now whether he has what it takes to become the kind of a man he really wants to be."

Those of you who have been reading my letters for the past ten or fifteen years know that I have spent most of my adult life in schools and colleges. I have studied and taught in several different schools both large and small, here at home and in lands across the



Martin came to see Juliana right after the cover picture was taken, and he was delighted with the tree. Behind him is his own Christmas sock, as well as Emily's.

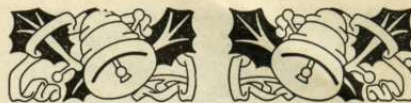
sea. I think that more than any other question asked of me by parents has been the question: "Should I send my son or daughter to a small college or to a big university?"

"The answer to that question depends upon several different factors, the chief one of which is the personality and cultural background of the son or daughter concerned. Taking everything into consideration, I think it is safe to say that eighty-five per cent of all college freshmen should begin their college education in a small school where the adjustment problem is much simpler, where the opportunities for personal guidance are much more numerous, and where the costs are less.

If your son or daughter wants a straight liberal arts education with little or no specialized technical study, it is quite probable that a small college will be the best place for the full four years of college work, but if, on the other hand, specialized study is wanted, the student could easily transfer to a large university for his last two years of work.

I have studied in both a small mid-western college and in a large eastern university, and I speak well of both institutions. As many of you know, I graduated from a small high school at Shenandoah, Iowa, and then matriculated at Tarkio College in Tarkio, Missouri. I studied at Tarkio for four years and received my liberal arts degree there.

Since graduating from Tarkio, I have had occasion to visit dozens and dozens of colleges and universities all over the country, and never have I regretted for one moment that I am a graduate of Tarkio College, Class of '39. It is true that a small college in the Midwest cannot offer all of the educational advantages of a big university, but the small college can offer a good education plus a moral and



spiritual leadership that far excels anything of that nature provided by a big university.

In the final analysis it is that *plus factor* which counts for most in this life. Had my friend sent her son Bob to a good small college, his stories of college life would have been much less frightening.

Betty and I hoped that David would get up on his feet and walk while Mother and Dad were with us, but he kept on "hitching" and creeping around the entire time they were here. Then sure enough—they hadn't been gone but a few days when he simply up and decided to walk, and now he goes at a great clip all over the house. When I complained to Mother that he really should be walking she reminded me that I was drawing close to twenty-two months when I finally started out on my own, so I was a poor one to complain!

Both Mother and Dad thought that the "cable car" I rigged up between trees for Mary Leanna and her friends was a really unique affair. For the next few months no one would be interested in thinking about such a project, but towards the end of spring I'll remember to tell you how I made it and perhaps you'd like to fix one for your own children.

It doesn't seem long now until Christmas, and Betty and I are anticipating it a great deal. We Driftmiers hope that you and yours will have a joyful, happy holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick, Betty,
Mary Leanna, David

SHARING

"All have a share in the beauty;
All have a share in the plan.
What does it matter what duty
Falls to the lot of man?
Someone has blended the plaster
And Someone has carried the stone,
Neither the man nor the master
Ever has builded alone,
Making a room for the weather,
Building a house for the King,
Only by working together
Men have accomplished a thing."

TO ONE WHO GRIEVES

This year I cannot wish you "Merry Christmas"
For 'twould seem as if I knew not
how to share
The loneliness and longing, which are
making
This Christmas time so hard for you
to bear.

And so I do not send a joyous greeting,
I know that sorrow brings but slow
release,
But I would have you know of you
I'm thinking,
On this, the birthday of the Prince of
Peace.

—Sent by Betty Christiansen



PEACE ON EARTH

By Mildred Cathcart

The beautiful words, "Peace on earth, good will to men" seem to have lost much of their meaning in our anxious times, and there are moments when we feel that the heavenly choir has been drowned out by the sound of man's unhappy activities.

To many people Christmas has come to mean merely decorations, feasts and gifts. In an effort to gain a little more time we even spell it Xmas, thus completely ignoring Christ. It has become Xmas. "X" is used as a symbol to stand for an unknown quantity, you know, and truly, when we take Christ out of the day it *does* become meaningless, an unknown quantity.

In these perilous times we often wonder what heritage we can pass on to our children, but one thing at least is certain for all of us: we can teach them to appreciate Christmas for its true meaning. When our first daughter was born six years ago we purchased a small creche for her first Christmas, and each year we have added new figurines to it.

In the days before Christmas we tell the story simply and often dramatize the role of the shepherds, the Wise Men and the angel chorus. Together we learn parts of the story from the Bible and words of the carols. Each night when we light our tree we also light the star above the creche, and the candles standing near it.

This year we have baby Jean Marie and already Kerry Lee is planning how she will shop and play Santa to her little sister. But important as these things are to children, they never overshadow the true significance of Christmas if we start when they are very young to make clear to them the meaning of the day. (It is amazing the number of children who have no association in their mind between the fact of Christ's birth and the celebration of Christmas.)

I pray that in future years when circumstances have separated us as a family, that the light of the Christmas Star will shine into the hearts of my children and light such fond memories that Christmas will never be "Xmas" to them.

And while they are bound to us by earthly memories, may they never lose sight of the Babe of Bethlehem. Only through Him, the Prince of Peace, can we know true peace that passeth understanding in this war darkened world of ours. There are many Herods in the world today who would have us lose sight of the Star of the East even as the Wise Men failed to be guided by its heavenly rays.

May we never lose sight of these glorious rays . . . may we keep our ears and heart attuned to the heavenly refrain

"Peace on earth—Good will to men."



If you have a built-in bookcase with a window directly above it, do try to fix up a scene comparable to this. Santa is sitting in a big shell with evergreens behind him, and all eight reindeer are in front.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT

By Doris Harlan Jones

Have you a little girl on your Christmas shopping list? If so, I feel sure that you have faced the same problem that I have, namely, what can I buy to hold her doll clothes and those other odds and ends that find their way to a convenient corner of the bedroom?

Through the years we have purchased a variety of doll suitcases and sewing chests, some made of card board, some made of fiber board or what have you, but Christmas always finds them delapidated and we are faced with the same old problem.

I have seen some very sturdy toy chests displayed in furniture store windows, but always find them beyond my budget. So, I took matters into my own hands and this is what I did:

The first step was to locate a man with a shot gun. He very graciously consented to give me the case in which his shells were purchased. (I understand that any hardware store will save one for you.) If you are not familiar with this, it is a wooden box approximately 12"x8".

My next trip was to the lumber yard where I bought a piece of plywood the same size to make a lid. Next came the problem of finishing the rough exterior. Varnish was out of the question since the case was made of rough lumber, and enamel, I decided, would not give it the "extra special" look I wanted it to have. So I chose a feed sack with an interesting design and went to work.

The lid was padded very lightly with some old cotton (found in the attic). Then a piece of feed sack was cut two inches larger on all four sides. With this I covered the lid and the material was fastened securely to the under side with carpet tacks.

Now for the box. I cut a piece of sack two inches wider than the height of the box and long enough to reach around it, plus about ten inches to be used for pleats. A hem one inch deep was stitched under on the long edges. Beginning on one side of the box I pleated this material to it, fastening the top and bottom with gold-headed tacks. The lid was then attached to the chest with two gold hinges from the dime store. I also purchased three gold drawer pulls, one of which I used on the lid and one at each side. The inside of the chest was enameled pink, as I had chosen a feed sack with a pink design, and it was finished. Sturdy, beautiful, and best of all, useful. Total expenses—67¢.



YOU COULD MAKE THESE GIFTS TOO

By Lynda Schlomann

Individual stockings for each member of the family are a very successful gift. Last year my mother made each of us one using white flannel cut about 12 inches long for the body of the sock, and a red bias tape trim across the top. Our names were embroidered in red just under the tape.

In the children's socks went things according to their ages. (She put a 50¢ limit on each stocking, and although she had to search for some things she enjoyed it and said that it certainly took away any dullness!) In a three year-old's stocking went a package of gum, a toy rattle, a balloon, small soap animal and two barretts. In others there were pencils, crayons, combs, key chains, colorless nail polish, scratch pads, handkerchiefs, small ornaments, etc.

For the women there were bobby pins, combs, a card of buttons, thread, powder puffs, dish scraper, pastry brush, etc. The men found in their socks such things as shaving lotion, shoe strings, rubber bands, styptic pencils, key chains, etc.

Our children very much enjoy hollowing out a big pumpkin to serve as a container for gifts to city relatives and friends. We've found that it is wonderful for such things as dressed chickens, apples, well-wrapped eggs, sausage or other frozen meat.

Spool dolls are always a great success with small children. Seventeen spools of assorted sizes are needed, and they can be painted any color you wish. Draw a face on the biggest spool. On the next largest make a hole through the middle of the sides; this is for fastening on the arms. (You can make this hole with a nail or a small drill.) Use a strong cord to string the spools together or, if you want a doll that stretches, use narrow elastic. A button placed at the outside end of the arms, legs and head will prevent the cord from slipping through.

Use a separate cord for each leg and run the cords up through the two body spools. Then thread the arms through the top body spool. String the cord through the side holes and up through the top of the spool. Now run all four cords up through the head spool and fasten them tightly. If you like you can make a loop at the top for hanging the doll.

A waste basket from a gallon size ice cream cardboard carton is good for your boy's or girl's room. Paint it and decorate with colorful pictures cut from magazines. Glue them on and varnish over them.

Do you have an old tea kettle? Gilt it and put a plant in it for your flower loving friend. A sweet potato is ideal for this purpose.

A pair of flat irons painted would make fine book ends or door stops.

A LITTLE OF THIS AND THAT FROM LUCILE

Well, guess what? This is once I'm not leaving any baking or sewing or cleaning to sit down and write a letter to you. The plain truth of the matter is that for the last hour I've just been a-sittin' here thinking about things in general—and nothing in particular.

One of the things that crossed my mind during this past hour was the following question: will I ever be able to lie down for a rest during the afternoon, or just SIT without feeling guilty? I doubt it. And I have the notion that an enormous number of you share my feelings! Those of us who grew up in homes where there was a lot of work to be done and a mighty example of accomplishment at the helm, somehow get it right down into the marrow of our bones and it's there for life. I can never once recall seeing Mother lie down or just SIT during the years that we were growing up. She, in turn, could say the same thing about her mother and the days on Sunnyside Farm. So there you are. It's a pioneer tradition that has never lost its force.

This brings me to something that I've thought about a lot through the last eight years. I've noticed over and over again in articles and books that mothers of babies and small children are admonished to lie down and rest (preferably *sleep*) during their youngster's nap periods.

I've never figured out how this was managed. When Juliana was a baby I snatched at all of her naps (and they were precious few because she was never one of these good sound sleepers) to light into laundry and ironing and cleaning. If I had fallen on to the bed whenever she closed her eyes we would have been sunk in two short days.

The authorities all say that it keeps mother's nerves steady and gives her a more patient, cheerful outlook to sleep while the baby is sleeping *no matter what*. Well, in theory I think this is wonderful and I agree wholeheartedly. But it just so happens that my nerves are a sight steadier and my outlook is considerably more cheerful if I'm not surrounded by accumulated laundry, dirty dishes and dust. Of course if you're of the make-up that isn't distressed by these things you have no problem at all—and I envy you.

Russell's mother paid us a visit during this past month and made a couple of lovely things for Juliana while she was here. I've told you in days gone by how fast she sews, and this last session at the machine was no exception.

In one day she made a beautiful brown wool skirt—pleated the entire way around—and a lovely little weskit to wear with it. The brown wool for the skirt was a gift from Abigail, but the weskit was made from very small pieces of wool (a tiny checked tan and brown wool) that had to be put together with great skill. If I were confronted with pieces of that size I



A number of years ago we photographed Wayne and Abigail sitting on a loveseat in their living room. This is the same loveseat but Emily and Alison have been added. In case you think that Emily has on black mittens of some kind we should explain she is holding a stuffed Panda.

wouldn't be able to think of one thing to do with them but a patchwork doll quilt! Yet under Mother Verness' hands they took shape into a classic, beautifully tailored weskit.

The other thing she made was what we call the Grandmother dress. Juliana's Grandmother Driftmier gave to her a sumptuous black velvet dress, not velveteen but a genuine silk velvet of exquisite quality. This had been hanging in an upstairs closet for ten years and Mother was tired of waiting to have it come back into style. It had been cut in such a way that I didn't see how anyone living could make it over—but Grandmother Verness did.

She cut it with a fitted bodice, short sleeves and a full skirt. For trimming she made a white linen collar and edged it with gorgeous Irish lace (also a gift from Grandmother Driftmier—an old jabot); there is matching Irish lace on the sleeves. A double row of tiny white pearl buttons at the neck finished it. This dress is a classic. It will look just as good on Emily five years from now as it looks on Juliana today, and since there won't be too many occasions for wearing it, I'm sure that it will be passed on in good shape.

Emily's third birthday on November 4th was the occasion for a new dress from Aunt Lucile. I used a fine quality navy blue cotton for this and smocked it in red and white, both the yoke and the sleeves. At the neck I put a tiny white organdy collar with the finest featherstitching in red that I could make.

I felt sort of guilty to make this dress out of such dark material that it will have to be washed alone to avoid a terrible lint problem, but I couldn't resist it. I've been told that if you turn dark dresses wrong side out you won't be tormented with so much lint, but I can't honestly see that it helps much. Now that Juliana is older she wears many darker clothes and I really think they're more work than the lighter colors that are supposed to be impractical.

Not long ago Alison was christened at St. John's Episcopal church here in Shenandoah, and I wish that all of you might see the very beautiful dress that she wore. This was made by Mabel Schoff of Stewartsville, Missouri, the highly talented seamstress who made the lovely white organdy

dress for Juliana that I once described for you in detail. Alison looked like a doll in it and she behaved very well, so the service was a happy experience for everyone involved.

Recently in the evenings we've been reading aloud right after supper and the particular book we've been on lately is so wonderful for this purpose that I hope you too will look for it: *The Peterkin Papers* by Lucia Hale. Mother read this aloud to us when we were children, and although I never saw a copy of it from that day until just recently, I'd never forgotten some of those hilarious stories about the Peterkins. Please see if you can't get it at your local library in the very near future for it would give each member of your family some wonderful laughs.

I've also been reading aloud from Tom Sawyer, and if you haven't read this in recent years, make it a point to take this from the library also. Juliana can quote verbatim the hilarious incident about the cat and the pain killer! And one of her great ambitions is to get to Hannibal, Missouri and see Tom's cave. She regrets, as do we, that when we went through Hannibal on our trip to Florida she was only five (her birthday fell only about two weeks before we started) and couldn't appreciate the fact that she was seeing Tom's stamping grounds.

We've been trying to figure out something extra-special and different in the line of Christmas decorations this year, but as yet haven't come up with anything out of the ordinary. I want to spend more time making unusual cookies and would like to attempt something really unique in the line of a cooky centerpiece... perhaps inspiration will come as Christmas draws closer.

Like many big families, we draw names for our Christmas party at Mother's and Dad's on Christmas Eve, and that has already been done. Last year Russell and I were lucky enough to draw Dorothy and Frank, and since they had just gotten hooked on to REA there wasn't a moment's doubt as to what to give them—an electric toaster. This year we didn't draw a couple so our thoughts will have to turn to something personal and less utilitarian.

I wish I could tell you right now what several of us have joined together to get for Mother and Dad, but this issue will be out before Christmas and it would never do to reveal the gift so early. Next month, however, I won't let Mother see my letter (on her word of honor!) and then I can tell you.

A blessed Christmas to each and everyone of you.

Lucile

GARDEN IN WINTER

How lovely the garden in silvery light
Of a shimmering moon on a crystal-
line night!

The bunny's track scampers through
feathery snow,
Past imprints of angels in bed hours
ago.

—Ethel Broendel.



CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

By Mildred Cathcart

In reply to many inquiries, "What can I provide in the way of entertainment for my club or Sunday School class?" I am offering you this suggestion that I expect to use myself when I am hostess in December. Various members will be asked in advance to participate. One friend who has a good voice will sing "Star of the East" and another who plays the accordion will add the more joyous songs such as "Jolly Old St. Nicholas." And some of the songs will be group numbers so that all will participate.

This idea is also suitable for church or school, for adults or children and may be added to so that it fits your particular needs.

("Silent Night" is played or sung softly off-stage as the Reader enters.)

Reader: "Many of the customs that we know today began long ago and, in most cases in countries far away. From England we hear the first carolers called Waits."

(The curtain parts to reveal a Yule Log in the fireplace and a family seated before it.)

"Candles were placed in the windows to light these singers on their way. And from England too comes the custom of the Yule Log. The word "Yule" meant December, and it was at that time of the year that people went to the woods to cut great roots of trees for their fires; these roots were called the Yule Logs."

(Song: "Deck the Hall.")

Following this the curtain is drawn. When it is parted again there is a Manger scene and off-stage is heard "Away in the Manger."

Reader: "To Germany must go our thanks for the beloved children's song "Away in the Manger." Martin Luther composed this song and it has become a universal favorite."

(A group of small children enters and sings the song.)

"To Germany also must go our thanks for the custom of having a tree. Martin Luther, according to legend, was walking home on a beautiful starlit night and was deeply impressed and inspired by the beauty of the evergreen trees. He wished to share this experience with his children so he cut a small fir tree and took it home to them. Then he placed many small candles on the branches to portray the beauty of the sky. He continued to do this yearly, and soon the custom spread throughout the surrounding country and finally to other parts of the world."

(The manger scene remains and worshippers kneel at the creche. They softly hum "The First Noel" while the reader continues.)

Reader: "From the country of France comes the word "Noel" which means birthday and applies to the birthday of the Christ Child. Nearly every French family builds a creche

and the children think the Christ Child brings their gifts and fills their wooden shoes with sweets."

(The worshippers sing "The First Noel" as the curtain is pulled and the Manger scene removed. Then "Jingle Bells" is played and real sleigh bells are heard.)

Reader: "All children are grateful to the Dutch for giving us Jolly Old Saint Nicholas. He was a wealthy man who was also most generous, and he spent his money trying to make other people happy. If he walked past the home of a poor family he would toss coins through open windows or slip money under the doors. He tried to keep his deeds a secret, but he was found out and little children followed him around."

"When Nicholas died he was made the patron saint of little children and Santa Claus is the name they gave to him. According to legend, Nicholas dropped a bag of gold down a chimney on Christmas Eve and it fell into a stocking which was drying on the mantel. Even so, our children hang their stockings by the mantel on Christmas Eve to receive the gifts of Santa."

(Santa enters in front of the drawn curtains carrying his pack, and a group of children follow him singing "Jolly Old St. Nicholas")

Reader: "The Star of Bethlehem" is a favorite symbol of Holland. On Christmas Eve a group of young men go about the streets singing songs and carrying a tall pole on which is mounted a large star made of light candles."

(A group of children enter dressed in white robes that have tinsel trimming to make them glisten like stars. They may carry luminous stars and go through a simple drill as the choir sings "Star of the East.")

Reader: "One custom that we all love had its origin right here in our United States. It began because a kind couple knew the true meaning of Christmas and wished to share this joy with others."

"Some twenty-three years ago a man and his wife living in San Francisco were decorating their tree when they became concerned about the many people less fortunate who would have no tree. A pretty evergreen grew near their front door so they decorated it with many bulbs. Children who had no tree of their own could see this one and enjoy its beauty. The custom spread so rapidly that today outdoor lighting and decorating has become a part of our Christmas planning."

(Turn off all lights leaving just the decorated tree lighted. Soloist sings "A White Christmas.")

Reader: "As our holiday season draws near let us not lose sight of the custom given to us on that first Christmas Day. Let us be ever mindful of the birth of our Saviour and remember to show kindness, charity and love to our fellowmen. May our song, like that of the angels of old be "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth Peace, Goodwill to Men."

(The room remains darkened for a moment, and then it is lighted as the entire group joins in singing "Joy To The World.")

MAKE MINE TINFOIL

By Lois Peck Eck'sten

My small son has four Christmas trees on his schedule this year. And he would feel defrauded if he didn't have another one, all his own, at home.

"And make it evergreen, Mom," he instructed me, "Not thorns with gum drops or something else peculiar."

"Now when I was a little girl, we didn't have—"

What I was going to say dead-ended at the look he reserves for me at such reminiscences.

Anyway, as I started to say to my son, but didn't:

Always there was a tree at the church on Christmas Eve. We children could count on that. But we didn't always have one at home and never until Christmas morning. Father was Scotch and a church elder. Through secret arrangement with someone or other, on some years, after the tree had done its duty at the church, he would hack off the top of the tree and take it home. We four children had to go to bed, if not to sleep, while he and Mother fixed up the church tree-top for family use.

But one year it was different. A spinster aunt came to stay with us and study music. Aunt El had ideas about a tree. And we four children cooperated with her with enthusiasm, going with her out in the woods about December 1, and cutting down a bare bush with strong, naked limbs.

We bore it home and started collecting tinfoil. We collected from everywhere. From chewing-gum and tobacco plug wrappers on the street, from trash cans, and alleys, and goodness knows where else. Aunt El was a whiz at covering the bare branches of the little bush with silver tinfoil.

We strung popcorn and cranberries and made colored paper chains. Aunt El covered balls with colored tinfoil and made paper cones for candy, and fashioned angels from cotton.

That year by hard work and management, I had fifty-cents to spend for gifts. I bought presents for Mother and Dad and Sister and my two brothers, and for Becky, the colored cook, and for the little girl next door, and for Aunt El. All out of that fifty-cents.

We put the tinfoil tree up on a box swathed in a dark quilt. It touched the ceiling in a sweep like a silvery dream. Aunt El swung an electric light globe in the middle of the tree. I had given her all my presents to smuggle onto it—except hers. I got that one on myself.

On Christmas morning with the light globe on, that silver tinfoil tree was the prettiest tree I had ever seen. I have never since seen one so splendid.

I wish my son could see it now. But perhaps he wouldn't like it.

"Make it evergreen," I can just hear him say.

Whichever way the wind doth blow,

Some heart is glad to have it so;

Then blow it East, or blow it West,

The wind that blows, that wind

is best.



MINCE MEAT

- 4 lbs. lean beef (save broth from meat)
- 3/4 lb. coarsely ground suet
- 1/2 lb. candied citron
- 24 cups chopped apples (not ground)
- 4 lbs. seedless raisins
- 1 pkg. currants
- Juice of 2 oranges
- Juice and grated rind of 2 lemons
- 2 cups meat broth
- 2 Tbls. cinnamon
- 1 Tbls. salt
- 6 cups white sugar
- 2 qts. sweet peach pickle juice or
- 1 qt. cider vinegar
- 1 cup water
- 1 lb. brown sugar

Put meat through grinder with coarse blade. Then combine all remaining ingredients and cook until thick, stirring very often.

GRAHAM BUTTERSCOTCH COOKIES

- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup vegetable shortening or butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup graham flour
- 2 cups white flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. lemon flavoring
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup chopped raisins

Cream sugar and shortening. Add beaten eggs and flavoring. Sift together the graham flour, white flour, soda, baking powder and salt. Add to eggs. Lastly add raisins. Form into rolls and chill for overnight. Slice thin and bake in a 350 degree oven for about 12 minutes.

DATE CAKE

- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 1/3 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp. soda
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 2 cups dates
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups boiling water

Cut dates fine and pour boiling water over them. Add soda and let stand. Mix the remainder of the ingredients by the regular cake method. Then add the date mixture. Bake in a 350 degree oven in large glass baking dish for approximately 40 minutes. This makes a big moist cake that is not too rich, as so many date cakes are.

"Recipes Tested in the Kitchen - Klatter Kitchen"

By LEANNA and LUCILE

SUET PUDDING

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1 cup sweet milk
- 1 cup chopped nutmeats
- 1 cup ground suet
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup molasses
- 1 Tbls. soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. nutmeg

Dissolve soda in molasses. Combine flour and bread crumbs to which the salt and spices have been added. Then mix together the dry ingredients with the suet, raisins, molasses, nuts and sweet milk. Turn into buttered mold and steam for two hours.



HARD SAUCE FOR SUET PUDDING

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 cup hot cream
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2 cups powdered sugar

Mix together the butter, cream and vanilla. Add salt and powdered sugar. Shape in a cake one inch thick and chill. Cut in thin slices and serve on the hot pudding.

CHRISTMAS SALAD

- 1 pkg. of lemon gelatine
- 1 cup hot water or fruit juice
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 cups raw ground cranberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 small can crushed pineapple
- 1 small can spiced white grapes

There will probably be enough juice from the grapes and pineapple to make 1 cup, but if not, add enough water to make 1 cup of liquid. Heat to boiling point and pour over lemon gelatine. Grind cranberries and add sugar. After gelatine has cooled, whip until light and frothy. Combine with 1 cup of whipped cream. Lastly add cranberries, pineapple and grapes. Chill in ring mold or in individual salad molds. Lovely for holiday entertaining.



CHRISTMAS COOKY CHEWS

- 3/4 cup cake flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup finely chopped dates
- 1 cup finely chopped walnuts
- 2 eggs

Combine dry ingredients and add dates and nuts. Beat eggs thoroughly and add to dry ingredients. Mix thoroughly. Spread mixture as thinly as possible in a shallow pan. Bake for 30 minutes in a 325 degree oven. When done, cut immediately into small squares and roll into balls. Roll balls in powdered sugar and then store in a tight tin.

ENGLISH TOFFEE

- 1 cup blanched almonds
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar (firmly packed)
- 2 5¢ bars sweet milk chocolate

Sprinkle 1/2 cup almonds in buttered pan. Combine butter and sugar in heavy skillet and boil for 12 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour over almonds in thin sheet. When set but still hot, arrange chocolate bars over top and as they melt sprinkle on the rest of the almonds that have been chopped in fine pieces. Cool and then break up into pieces.

BANANA BREAD

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 tsp. soda
- 3 Tbls. water
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 4 bananas (if small)

Mash bananas, combine with other ingredients and beat very thoroughly—in electric mixer, if you have one. Turn into 2 loaf pans and bake for approximately 45 minutes in a 350 degree oven.

CREAM CANDY

- 6 cups sugar
- 1 qt. thin cream
- 1 pt. white corn syrup
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 lb. shelled pecans

Stir all together except nuts. Boil slowly for one hour and then add nuts. Boil again until it forms a firm soft ball in cold water. Beat while warm until it loses its luster. Add 2 tsp. vanilla. Pour into two loaf pans. This makes between 5 and 6 pounds of delicious candy.

HAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS AND EAT IT TOO!

By Mabel Nair Brown

Most of us haven't time to do much elaborate "fussing" with food during the year, but when the holiday season approaches even the busiest women make extra hours for fixing highly ornamental and attractive dishes. I've had a wonderful time preparing the things described here, and I hope that this year you'll try at least some of them.

Della Robia Wreath

Many of us are familiar with the brilliant color of this wreath, and we can construct it from fruit for a glittering masterpiece!

On a large round platter arrange the following fruits as a wreath. (Each fruit may be placed on a large leaf—I preserved some autumn leaves for exactly this purpose.) Pears are important and may be fresh or canned—if canned, be sure they are well-drained.

Spread the outside of pear halves with cream cheese moistened with a small amount of cream. Press seeded grapes, halved, into the cheese so that the pear is covered and resembles a cluster of grapes. You might have one cluster of white grapes, another of Tokays, etc. The stem from the bunch of grapes or from the leaves can be used as a stem on the pear grapes. Three or four of these pears should do for the average platter.

Peel two or three small oranges or tangerines but leave whole. Add several of your whole spiced peaches and some whole apricots. Apples should be cored but left whole and dropped into a syrup tinted red and cooked until tender. (Do NOT overcook!)

A few cherries or cranberries may be added just for color's sake. After the fruits are carefully arranged in the wreath, garnish with additional autumn leaves or holly. Lettuce can be used if nothing else is available, but it isn't nearly as attractive. Honey salad dressing is perfect to serve with this if you use it as a salad—pass in a separate bowl, of course. If you expect to use the wreath as a dessert, then choose fruits accordingly and omit dressing. I have even added a big red bow to the wreath just for sheer drama!

Sugar Plum Tree Tea Ring

Use your favorite sweet dough recipe for this and add raisins, chopped citron and candied cherries to batter as you mix it. When ready to shape into tree, turn out on lightly floured board and roll into a rectangle, making it twice as long as it is wide—8"x16" will be about right.

Cut a strip of dough 1 inch wide from the 8 inch side. Folded in half, this will be the trunk of the tree. Lift the rectangle of dough on to a well greased cookie sheet and brush with butter; then sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Now lift upper corners of dough down to center of lower edge so that you have a triangle. With your culinary scissors cut slanting slashes into the sides of the triangle. These slashes you can turn up and



One of the prettiest trees we saw last year was this frosty white one. Around the base was a big evergreen wreath. It stood on a table in front of a large window.

twist slightly to resemble branches.

Place the twisted trunk dough at the lower center and tuck it under the tree firmly. When tree is baked, trickle white icing over it to resemble snow on its branches. Decorate with tiny gumdrops, cherries or cake decoration candy. When ready to serve, place it on your prettiest large tray and add a few sprays of evergreen or holly. These sugar plum trees would make delightful gifts too.

Orange Starbright

This is another bread "pretty". I use my recipe for the orange rolls or bow knots, but instead of rolls I shape it in my star cake pan. (Lacking this one could cut a paper pattern in star design, cut around it on the rolled dough and then bake the dough on a cookie sheet.) After the dough is shaped in the pan, I spread over it a glaze of orange juice, sugar and grated orange peel. Let rise and bake. While still slightly warm, garnish the star points with bits cut from candy orange slices.

Dominoe Fudge

Making fudge for a party or for gifts? Try cutting the pieces in dominoe size and then put on the dots with white powdered sugar icing. They are really a conversation piece, I can assure you. Brownies or fudge cookies could be handled the same way.

Christmas Tree Cake

A Christmas Tree cake with pine tree dessert are mighty pretty companion pieces to bring to the table and serve. If you do not have the tree-shaped cake pans, then bake your favorite white cake in a large sheet, and use a paper pattern to cut the tree. Cover cake with white icing and then sprinkle thickly with cocoanut tinted green—or the green sugar might be used; however, cocoanut is much prettier. Put a silver cake decoration on tip of each branch and place tiny colored candies on the cake for the tree ornaments. Cut a star of silver paper and place at the top.

Pine tree dessert is lime jello sponge

(or the lemon flavor tinted green) which you mold in cone-shaped ice-cream dish liners. (Ask for them at the drug store.) Grease these paper cones with a bit of salad oil so the gelatin will come out easily, and stand the cones in cups to give them support as the gelatine hardens.

When ready to serve, turn out on pretty glass plates. Put whipped cream through a cake decorator tube to make the white festooning on each little tree. Stick bits of maraschino cherries on the white cream, and garnish with a holly leaf.

Any red gelatine salad or cranberry salad takes on a holiday air if moulded in a star mold. And if you have individual ring molds, try molding a green salad in them. Before serving garnish with pimiento or with red cherries to resemble berries on a wreath.

This and That

Popcorn tinted green and molded in buttered individual ring molds makes such pretty wreaths for favors by adding red cinnamon candies or bits of cherries for the berries. Lay each wreath on a "snowflake"—a lace paper doily.

Another pretty favor that is also tasty is the ice cream cone tree on the cup cake base. Use pointed ice cream cones. With colored icing make swirls and festooning on the cone and stick on bright bits of candy. Let a stick of candy be the tree trunk. Stick the candy in the center of a cup cake, then place the cone upside down over the stick of candy, leaving part of the candy to show for the trunk. If the cone insists on wobbling, anchor it with a little icing placed in the tip on the inside. Stick a bright red cherry on the tree top.

Have you ever served poinsettia salad? First tint pear halves red by cooking in tinted red syrup. Cut each pear half in thirds when cool. Arrange as petals of the poinsettia on shredded lettuce. Make yellow centers from American cheese. Pass the salad dressing in a separate bowl so that the flower effect is not spoiled.

JUST DAD AND I

Our house is lonesome as can be,
There's no one here but Dad and me,
We sorta-live from day to day
Thinking of dear ones far away.
Living in memories, gone by—
Sitting alone, just Dad and I.

But soon the Christmas time draws near,
And plenty of noises you can hear!
The children come, their voices ringing
With joy and gladness, carols singing.
The house is full of toys and things,
And hearts are full with all it brings.

So let us treasure while we may,
Well knowing there will come a day
When we're too old to sit alone,
To welcome all our dear ones home.
But we'll still be happy, Dad and I,
Living in memory of days gone by.

—Calista J. Mier

BE SURE YOU SAVE THE RECIPES DOROTHY INCLUDES

Dear Friends:

This is the last of October and the children are all busy with their school programs and Hallowe'en parties. Our school isn't having their big night program until the last of November, but the children have invited the parents to a Hallowe'en party one day this week in the afternoon, and they will put on a short program at that time and serve refreshments. I am going to leave work a little early on that day so that I can attend.

The squirrel season has been open now for a couple of weeks, so we have had quite a few hunters around in our timberland. The squirrels are very plentiful here this year and Frank has been keeping our icebox well stocked. The only hunting he has had time to do is when he walks down through the timber in the mornings and home at night, but he manages to get three or four every day. We have had many delicious fried squirrels, in fact almost more than we can use ourselves, but we can always manage to find people who are glad to get the extra ones.

There have been lots of black walnuts and hickory nuts this year but they have all been picked up now. The bittersweet has been lovely all fall. Frank brought me in a nice bouquet the other day. He said he knew where there were some nice wahoo berries too, so I am looking forward to a few twigs of that for the house.

During the first part of October when Mrs. Kiburz was out visiting schools, she arrived at one school just as the children were returning from a science hike with their arms loaded with a lovely blue flower. Mrs. Kiburz recognized it at once as a Gentian which is practically extinct in this part of the country. She knew it wasn't the Bottled Gentian because she had seen a little of that growing in Ringgold County, Iowa, several years ago when she was teaching there, but what variety it was she did not know. Since I was going to Shenandoah the next day I decided to take a few with me and see what Aunt Helen Fischer could tell me about it, and she told me a very interesting story about the Gentian.

The variety the children had found near the schoolyard was the Prairie Gentian, which will only grow in prairie sod that has never been touched. When my Grandmother and Grandfather Field first came to Shenandoah and settled on their farm South of town, the prairie land was just blue with these lovely Gentians and Grandmother used to call it her favorite flower. But as Grandfather turned the prairie sod and cultivated the land, in just a few years the Gentians had all died out.

Aunt Helen also told me about a friend of hers, a great flower lover in Council Bluffs, who had found a few Prairie Gentians and tried to transplant them. He even dug up lots of the prairie sod and brought that home to his garden. The Gentians lived for awhile, but in a few years

the other soil in his garden had mixed with the prairie sod enough that the Gentians died out.

I suppose many of your husbands have started picking corn. That is what Frank has been doing when the weather permitted. We haven't very much corn to pick this year so it shouldn't take him very long. He says it rained all the time he was trying to get some planted, and now it has been raining all the time he has been trying to get it picked.

The folks have tried all Fall to get up to see us, but every Sunday it either rains, or it has rained the day before so that the roads are too muddy for them to get to our house. We are living in hopes that in another year we will have a Farm to Market road past our house, but we feel about this like we did about the electricity—we aren't going to hold our breath until we see the actual work started.

I am looking forward to the last of this week when I will go to Des Moines for the State Teachers' Convention. The secretaries to the County Superintendents have their own all-day meeting, which is what I will attend of course.

Over the weekends I try to make up casserole dishes that can be stored in the refrigerator and then taken out and reheated for our evening meal. Scalloped potatoes, scalloped corn (I put the crumb topping on when it's reheated) and both tuna fish and salmon dishes work out well this way. A roll of refrigerator dough is a great help too, and here is a recipe that we all like very much.

BROWNED BUTTER PECAN COOKIES

- 1 cup butter (browned)
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 beaten eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Brown the butter well. For ordinary occasions you can use 1/2 cup butter and, after it is well browned, stir in 1/2 cup vegetable shortening. When melted, pour over brown sugar. Mix well and add the 2 beaten eggs, vanilla and pecans. Sift together the flour, soda, cream of tartar and salt and add. Form into rolls. Chill overnight. Slice thin and bake about 12 minutes at 375 degrees.

The other night I ran into a friend of mine in the grocery store at the vegetable counter and she said she was hunting for the biggest head of cauliflower she could find. Knowing that there are only two members in her family, I asked her what in the world she wanted such a big head for and she started telling me about the pickled vegetables she was going to make that night when she got home from work.

The next day she brought me a pint and said she wanted me to try them. Frank and I both thought they were the most delicious pickles we had ever eaten, and went just perfectly with

any kind of meat, but especially with squirrel. Frank wanted me to get the recipe. It is one of those recipes that has been handed down in the family for years, and it made her happy when I said I wanted to share it with you in my Kitchen-Klatter letter.

Mustard Pickles

- 1 qt. carrots
- 1 head cauliflower
- 1 qt. green beans (canned, fresh or frozen)
- 1 pt. celery
- 1 qt. green tomatoes
- 5 green and 5 red peppers
- 2 cups green limas (canned, fresh or frozen)
- 1 qt. pickling onions
- 1 qt. sweet cucumber pickles (or fresh cucumbers)

Dressing

- 6 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 3 T. dry mustard
- 1 t. turmeric
- 6 cups vinegar
- 1 1/2 cups pickle juice
- Teas. salt

Place in pan, cauliflower broken in flowerets and carrots cut in wedges. In another container put tomatoes in wedges, peppers in strips, celery in crosswise slices, and onions, whole if small, or cut up if large. If fresh beans and cucumbers are used, add to this second container. Cover with salt water, one cup salt to four cups of water. Let stand overnight. Drain. Cover with boiling water and cook until almost tender. Carrots and cauliflower require a longer cooking than the other vegetables and are cooked separately. Cook limas alone to assure proper cooking. If canned vegetables are used, they will not require this cooking nor will the pickles. Drain.

Combine all ingredients for the dressing and cook until thick stirring constantly. Add vegetables; cook until just tender. Seal in hot sterilized jars. Makes 12 pints.

For the last cooking of vegetables and dressing it is best to use your largest kettle and place over boiling water in the bottom of dish pan or pressure canner. If cooked directly over flame watch closely to prevent sticking.

I just now looked up at the calendar above my kitchen table and realized that although I'm talking about Hallowe'en, we will be past Thanksgiving and on the road to Christmas by the time this reaches you.

I haven't made any plans yet for either holiday because so much depends on so many different things! I'm sure that we'll have the Johnson family party on Christmas Eve at our house, but beyond this I'm not certain about other plans. Kristin is pouring over the Christmas catalogs and finds a thousand things she wants so from now on we'll start the process of elimination that brings the list down to reasonable proportions.

A happy Christmas to all of you, and when it comes time to make wishes, let's all concentrate on better weather and better crops next year.

Sincerely always,
Dorothy

HAPPY HOLIDAY HINTS

Country eggs are always a treat to those who don't live on farms and they can be presented with real glamour by this simple trick of using a rectangular box. Cut a heavy cardboard to fit this box and paste on it a Christmas tree cut from green paper. Now make a dozen holes in the cardboard so that an egg will fit into each hole nicely. Fit the cardboard in the box, place a Christmas seal on each egg and fit the egg in the hole. If the holes are scattered on outer edges of the tree, eggs will look like the ornaments on the Christmas tree. Paste a star on the tree top. This is a gift that children would much enjoy preparing.

Have you a sweet potato vine or some other vine to share with a flower lover? Perhaps you can also locate an old kerosene kitchen lamp on a swinging crane. Plant the vine in the bowl part of the lamp, paint the crane in white or in a color to go with the colors used in your friend's kitchen, and present her with a lovely planter for her kitchen as a Christmas gift.

A new twist to the sugar plum tree idea is to tie little bowknots of narrow bright red ribbon on to the white branches instead of the gumdrops. Or you might make little silver bells from aluminum foil (these can be shaped over a thimble) and tie them on the branches for a "Merry Bell" tree.

Do you have an old kerosene lantern from pre-electricity days? Polish it up, paint it white, gold or silver, insert a short fat candle in place of the burner, add a few greens and red berries and put the chimney in place. Hang this unusual arrangement on your porch.

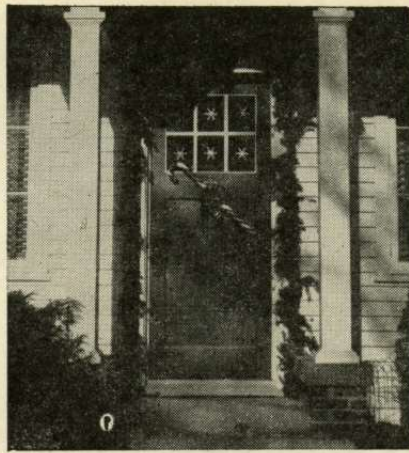
Candy wreaths make very "sweet" holiday favors. You may be able to purchase colorful round hard candies already wrapped in colored cellophane, but if not you can put each piece in a square of colored cellophane and wrap it. Twist the ends of the cellophane to each other and wind very fine wire around the twist to form a candy wreath. Use narrow red ribbon to twist around the wreath and cover the wire. Tie in a bow at the top.

Here is a clever decoration for an inside door. Tie a red ribbon to two bright colored small mittens and tack on the door. Cut out the words "Merry Christmas" from gold paper and fasten to the ribbon between the mittens. Fill the mittens with small toys or candy, and tuck bits of evergreen at the top.

Had you thought of polishing up one of your skillets (or painting an old one), twining some sprays of evergreen around it, adding a big bow to the handle, tying a large spoon to this bow and then hanging it on the door? You can be sure your guests will soon be "banging" out a hearty greeting!

When making aprons, dresses, panties, or any item of clothing for a little girl's gift, make a smaller edition for her doll. This miniature copy seems to mean more to little mothers than the fanciest doll clothes that don't look like her own.

Little girls also enjoy receiving tiny



If you have a front doorway more or less Colonial in feeling, you might like to decorate it as Ruth Ahlgren decorated hers. The entire door is framed with evergreen sprays wired together. An enormous candy stick (a mail tube covered in red and white paper) is tied on with evergreen and a huge red satin bow. Each small panel in the upper section of the door has a star glowing in it.

dish towels, hand towels and luncheon sets "just like mother's" for their play house.

A Jolly Santa For Your Lawn

Here is the way we made a Santa Claus ornament for our lawn. He is such a sturdy fellow with his oilcloth suit that he can be stored in the attic and brought out year after year to welcome holiday guests.

A small nail keg was used for the body. We padded a large potato chip can for the head and wired it to the keg. An old woolen lumber jacket had its sleeves stuffed tightly for arms and was then buttoned on to the nail keg body. (If you lack such a jacket you might wire some large size tin cans together to make the arms.) For each leg we used one section of stove pipe and wired it to the bottom of the keg. A pair of my husband's discarded rubber boots were slipped over the stove pipe and made fine Santa's boots peeping from under the red trouser legs.

A pair of blue jeans served as a pattern for the red oilcloth trousers, and a sport shirt made a good guide for cutting the jacket; Santa's pointed cap was also made of red oilcloth. (All of this stitching was done on the machine.) The bottom of the jacket and sleeves, as well as the front closing, had a border of white oilcloth.

A regular Santa Claus mask was fastened over the head to make Santa's face, and we stuffed some white flannel gloves and pinned them to the arms for hands. Santa's pack can be made of white or brown oilcloth and filled with empty cans, boxes, or anything else that will make a big bulge. Just be sure that there are actually toys showing at the top, and they should be sufficiently weatherproof to stand all kinds of extremes.

We usually have our Santa standing near the door, and to prevent his being blown over in a high wind we fasten him to a corner of the house with a concealed wire! I'm sure you'll want to anchor yours in some similar fashion.

Stored away in our machine shed is

an old-fashioned cutter which we would like to get out, give a new coat of black paint, and fill with big bulky packages (kegs, boxes or cans painted in brilliant colors). This would be attractive on our front lawn which is big and right on the highway. In the event we do this, Santa will be seated in the cutter, of course. And someday, someday if we can find time to get busy with a coping saw, eight handsome reindeer could pull the cutter and make the scene complete.

—Virginia Thomas.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FUN

Icicles Away is fun for all. Fasten a wire across the room and on it tie some candy canes. Blindfold each player and give him a pair of kindergarten scissors with instructions to try and cut down a candy cane. Players are not allowed to feel around to locate the wire but must snip just where they stop when they reach out. Each person may be allowed three snips.

Finding Partners: Lace paper doilies are used for this. Cut each one into two sections—make a different design of course. Put half of the "snowflakes" in one bowl, and the matching halves in a second bowl. Partners are found by drawing the snowflakes and matching them.

Santa's Puzzlers: Wrap a dozen or so articles such as a ball, rattle, doll, hose, handkerchief, tie, purse, gloves, small string of bells, candy cane, etc., in gay Christmas paper. Number each package. Give guests paper and pencil, and as these numbered packages are passed around the room, allow each person to hold the package for a few seconds, and then write down what he thinks it is.

Getting Christmas Dinner is heaps of fun that calls for some beforehand preparation. First decide on a menu, and then make up a story in which you describe what ingredients you put in the turkey dressing, the salads, pies, etc. Make a list of all the ingredients that would be needed to prepare the menu, and then cut up this list and give each guest a slip with the name of one ingredient on it. When you read your story, pause as you come to the part where you say, for instance: "Then I added 1 cup of ----" and let a guest fill in with the ingredient on his slip. There will be some mighty queer recipes before you are through as you get sage in the cranberry salad, a cup of onions in the mince pie, 2 Tbls. of dates in the turkey stuffing, etc. (This would be a particularly good game for a December bridal shower.)

Filling the Christmas Stocking: As your guests arrive hand each one ten or fifteen small stockings that have been cut from red paper. When all have assembled, announce that throughout the evening whenever a person uses the word "Christmas" in conversing with another, he must forfeit a stocking to that person. The fun will come in as all try to trick others into using the word. At the end of the evening give a prize of a stocking full of candy to the one who has collected the most stockings.

CHRISTMAS BEGINS AT HOME

By Mabel Nair Brown

So many times these past few years I've looked around and felt that for most people the anticipation of Christmas and the reality of Christmas are two different things entirely. In an effort to avoid this in my own home I've made a firm resolve to seek a little more calmness of spirit this Christmas tide; to elude, as far as possible, some of the commercialism and the unending bustle and mad scramble that threaten to overwhelm the real meaning of the day in this modern world in which we live.

It's the small things repeated year after year that make the wonderful family traditions we never forget. Not a one of these traditions we have in our own home is strikingly original, but perhaps they will help you plan ways and means to increase your family's joy at Christmas time.

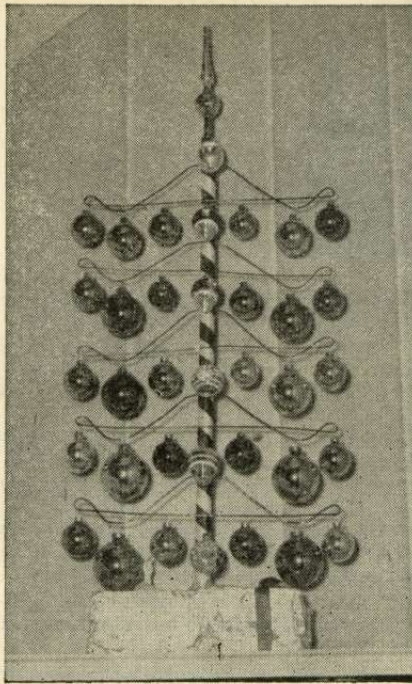
Last year our small daughter's own little creche was arranged on top of the piano where she could see it when we gathered around to sing Carols in the evening. She chose the tiny figures at the local Five and Ten, and for the background a wooden salad bowl was cut off on one side so that it stood on edge behind the figures to form a halo effect. This bowl was gilded with gold paint, and small evergreen branches were placed in front of it and on either side to frame it.

I made a great tall candle (about four inches square at the base and tapering to wick at the top) by melting down several old white candles and pouring the wax into a paper quart milk container. When the wax had set I molded on more warm wax to get the rough effect that I wanted. I added a bit of ordinary white paint to the melted wax to insure a truly white candle when finished—and it worked!

This candle stood at one side of the creche scene and was lighted at Carol singing time. On the wall immediately in back of the creche we hung a 36 x 48 inch piece of sky blue cotton percale. On it was pasted a large star cut from gold metallic paper, and star rays of various lengths, cut from this same paper, were pasted on to radiate from it.

An attractive table piece that attracted much comment was our napkin tree. Its base was made of small size (12 inch width) chicken mesh cut and fastened in a cone shape. Paper napkins in a delicate green shade were folded in fourths and trimmed around the edges with pinking shears. (Plain scissors can make a notched edge if pinking shears aren't at hand.)

These napkins were then shaken out, gathered up in the center and poked through the mesh. Then the four corners were fluffed out. The "tree" was entirely covered in this fashion. As you work you will see that you need not put a napkin in each mesh—every three or four will be about right. Finish the tree by pasting small star seals (we used blue, red, green, silver and gold) in the corners of the napkins. These would be fine and easy to make for table center pieces if you are having a church sup-



Abigail and Wayne had a lot of fun making this clothes hanger Christmas tree. The base is a hunk of 2x4 covered with aluminum foil; a hole was bored in this for the broomstick "trunk" cut to the right length; Abigail covered it with red and white striped ribbon. The hook on the hanger was cut off, and then it was bent and stapled to the "trunk".

per in December. The trees made of all white napkins and gold, or silver or multicolor stars, are very striking.

For a Yule Log effect you can use the same idea, but cut the mesh in a rectangle and roll in log shape and fasten ends. Stick napkins in all but the bottom side which you flatten slightly so that it stands firmly. You might encircle such a "log" with greens or Christmas balls.

Through the years I have acquired three tablecloths that make a very effective background for holiday arrangements. One is of deep green color fast cotton, and on it I use a candle holder made of natural wood lumber 2 x 4. It is about a foot long and stands on its side; from this side view it looks like a flat bowl since the ends were cut with a saw to achieve this effect. Across the top five holes were bored to hold candles.

This holder is placed in the center of the green cloth covered table, and around its base are heaped gold colored Christmas balls. I use gold lace paper doilies under the balls so that the edges stick out to make a "frame" beneath the arrangement. When the candles are lighted, their glow is picked up and reflected beautifully in the balls.

On a grey linen tablecloth we like to use a blue theme: blue balls heaped on a round silver tray with a bit of pine or holly, and silver candle holders with silver or white candles. We also like to use small blue balls hung on a white tree branch that is placed in a flower pot covered with aluminum foil. Place the pot on a large star cut from blue foil paper.

Last year I made a special Christ-

mas cloth. It is of bright red and in the center, in white, is an embroidered design of tree ornaments. Some of the balls have lettering such as "Noel", "Greetings", etc. on them. On one side exactly at the edge of the table are embroidered the words "Merry Christmas", and on the opposite side is "A Happy New Year".

We all love this cloth, and people who have visited our home during the holidays commented on it. It is a perfect background for many of our arrangements, and last year when we had a Christmas Smorgasboard Tea it looked wonderful with all of the beautiful holiday foods spread on it.

Here are some table favors that your children can make.

Tiny star trees are made by cutting five graduated stars from white or green paper and inserting them on one of the colored toothpicks now available; then stick the toothpick in a large gum drop.

Cut the center from a small green paper doily and glue a picture cut from one of last year's Christmas cards to back of doily in such a way that the doily will frame it. Attach a tiny red bow at the top for hanging the picture, and to carry out the wreath effect of the doily around the picture. (One can use larger doilies and frame larger pictures to hang on the walls during the holiday season.)

Another idea is to cut small stars from plastic snow (stryafoam) and make them do as place cards by gluing on sequins to form letters in the name. Or you can glue on letters that one can buy already cut and ready to stick on packages.

Children love to cut sugar cookies in star or bell shape, then make a rosette of icing in the center with your cake decorator, and stick a tiny birthday candle in the rosette. These candles lighted at the table during the holidays makes a festive meal of the most hurriedly thrown together supper.

Suggest to your youngsters that you'd like to have a brand new appropriate decoration for your kitchen door during the holidays. They'll get a real thrill out of helping you make one by using a large swag of green and tying to it with red ribbons several bright colored plastic cookie cutters and a child's toy rolling pin.

Another attractive door piece features a horseshoe which has been painted gold. To it tie sprigs of greens and a red bow. On a scroll of paper fastened above put this greeting, "WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS". To protect this scroll you may cover it with cellophane paper if you wish, or you may prefer to use the horseshoe arrangement without the scroll.

We try to have one special new arrangement every season, and this year's is to center around a small white-spined church which is electrically lighted so that its stained glass windows shed a soft glow. When the key is wound it will play "Silent Night, Holy Night."

It seems to me that in years to come our children will recall the little white church and the starlighted creche on the piano whenever they hear Silent Night. May your home, too, know the joy of a blessed Christmas!



MRS. SANTA SAVES THE DAY

By Myrtle E. Felkner

There was definitely some grumbling going on in Santa's workshop.

"I don't see why we work so hard all year 'round when everyone else gets vacation with pay," muttered one Brownie.

"And besides that," pointed out another Brownie as he shook a teddy bear to make sure his eyes moved correctly, "besides that, most workers get double pay for overtime. All we get is chocolate cookies."

"It wouldn't be so bad," agreed a third, "but then the children give all the credit to Santa's reindeer. They have the glamorous job of delivering the pretty things that we've slaved all year to make. Nobody leaves anything on the hearth for Santa's elves."

Mrs. Santa was in the kitchen baking cookies for the elves. "My, my," she murmured as she plunked in some extra chocolate chips. "The elves are certainly cross today. I must speak to Santa about it." She dusted her hands on her apron and hurried to Santa's office.

Santa was seated behind his desk. "Bills, bills, bills!" he muttered. "Steel prices are up, copper is up, plastic is up, and besides that, I can't even buy wigs for the last two hundred dolls. Things are certainly in a bad shape around here."

Mrs. Santa could only gap. She had never seen Santa so discouraged and cross.

"Come into the kitchen," she said at last. "I have fresh cookies and apple cider for everyone."

"Might as well," grumbled Santa, and he went to fetch the elves.

Mrs. Santa lost no time setting out the cookies. Then she poured little glasses of cider for the elves and a great big glass of cider for Santa. In to each one she sprinkled a little of her Magic Dream Dust.

"It must be cinnamon," said Santa, and he drank every bit.

"It's good," said the elves, and they drank every bit, too.

Soon they were all napping in their chairs. Mrs. Santa hurried to the workshop. Her nimble, willing fingers flew as she put tiny wheels on the trains and carefully stitched dresses for the dolls.

Then she hurried to the stables to explain Santa's troubles to the reindeer. They cheerfully gave her enough hair from their coats and tails to make the wigs.

Next Mrs. Santa hustled to the office, where she left the wigs on Santa's desk. Then she used his short-wave radio to talk to the steel manu-

facturers and the copper manufacturers and the plastic manufacturers.

"Santa is worried about the bills and the elves are going on strike," she explained. "There will be no Christmas if you can't help us."

Such a flurry! Soon planes loaded with gifts arrived at the North Pole. There was steel and copper and plastic for toys; there was a new suit for every Brownie and shiny black boots for Santa. There was such a noise that Santa and the elves awakened.

"What is all the rumpus?" demanded Santa. He strode outside, followed by the elves.

"Ho! Ho!" he laughed when he saw the gifts. "Someone has brought cheer to us! Whoever heard of lend-lease joy for Santa?" The Brownies laughed so hard they rolled in the snow in their new suits. Then Santa shook hands with all the pilots and gave the reindeer each a lollipop, and then every one of them went happily back to work.

Mrs. Santa just smiled. She tucked the Magic Dream Dust into her apron pocket and hurried away to put another batch of cookies in the oven.

THERE MUST BE LOVE

O may glad bells ring out this year
With hope supporting Christmas cheer!

And may each mortal understand
There must be love in every land,
For only then will good increase
And bring the world again to peace.

—Rose Demmitt

LITTLE STAR

O little star of Bethlehem,
Whenever you draw near
With softly glowing mellow light
The earth is bathed in cheer,
The same as when you safely led
The shepherds on their way
To find the Christ Child's lowly bed
On that first Christmas day.

—Rose Demmitt

COVER PICTURE

Now that her pigtails are a thing of the past you may not recognize the little girl on the cover who is trimming the tree, so we thought perhaps we'd better tell you that it is Juliana Verness, aged eight. Those of you who keep a file of this magazine first found Juliana (with Kristin) on the December cover in 1946. It sounds trite to say that children grow up incredibly fast, but that's exactly what we feel.



Imagine getting a Christmas basket like this! Lynn Trombold snuggles up with the packages, while sister Joan holds the big candy stick. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Trombold of Wichita, Kansas sent this as a Christmas card.

FOR THE LITTLE COOK

Here is a Christmas candy that is so easy to make, yet so good that you'll want to box up some for Christmas gifts for little friends on your list.

Marshmallow Bars

- 6 marshmallows, cut in eights
- 1 cup corn flakes
- 1 package of semi-sweet chocolate

Line the bottom of a loaf pan with waxed paper. Arrange marshmallows in the pan and fill spaces between the marshmallows with the corn flakes. Heat the chocolate over boiling water until partly melted; then remove from boiling water and stir rapidly until entirely melted. Pour evenly over contents of pan and tap pan several times to settle chocolate. Let stand in cool place to harden. Cut in bars.

—Mildred Grenier.

"EASY TO MAKE" CANDY

Raisin Cluster Candy

Melt one square of unsweetened chocolate. Add 2 Tbls. sweet cream, 2 Tbls. of sugar and 1/4 tsp. shaved paraffin. Put over boiling water until all is thoroughly melted and smooth. Add 3/4 cup of raisins. Drop in clusters of six raisins each on buttered plate to cool.

Rocky Road Bars

10 marshmallows cut in quarters and arranged in a buttered pan. Fill spaces between with broken walnut meats—around 1/2 cup will be needed. Cover with 8 squares of Baker's Dot Chocolate that has been melted over hot water.

Peanut Clusters

Melt 1/2 lb. sweet chocolate in a double boiler. Add 3 cups of roasted peanuts (remove the skins) and stir until all are covered with the chocolate. Drop by spoonfuls on waxed paper.

"Little Ads"

If you have something to sell try this "Little Ad" Department. Over 125,000 people read this magazine every month. Rate: 10¢ a word, payable in advance. When counting words, count each initial in name and address. Rejection rights reserved. Your ad must reach us by the 1st of the month preceding date of issue.

January Ads due December 1.

February Ads due January 1.

March Ads due February 1.

Send Ads Direct To
Driftmier Publishing Co.
Shenandoah, Ia.

OLD BEADS WANTED, any color, strung or unstrung. Send yours for estimate. Kathryn A. Ross, HENRY FIELD JEWELRY DEPT., Shenandoah, Iowa.

FOR SALE: Black Walnut meats \$1.15 a pint. Mrs. Chris Rasmussen, 2019 South 6th Street, Harlan, Iowa.

GAY PRINT AND ORGANDY APRONS. Charming and practical for gifts. Sure to please. \$1.25. Ada Higbee, Rt. 5, Bloomfield, Iowa.

EMBROIDERED PILLOW CASES, \$2.25. Tea towels, set of 7—\$3.50. Aprons, cloth napkins, \$1 ea. Mrs. Ray Dixon, Allerton, Iowa.

"CASH PAID FOR OLD GOLD". Mail old jewelry, watch cases, optical scraps, dental gold—for prompt estimate to: Kathryn A. Ross, HENRY FIELD JEWELRY DEPT., Shenandoah, Iowa.

LITTLE GIRLS CROCHETED DRESSES. Ladies organdy and print aprons, infant-wear. Guaranteed. Beulah's, Box 112, Cairo, Nebraska.

REDUCING BOOKLET—(by nurse). Easy to follow 14 day schedule, food charts, gas forming food, arthritis helps, price 40¢. Audrey Pitzer, Shell Rock, Iowa.

CROCHETED TABLECLOTH, 66x72 \$50.00. Crocheted or tatted chair sets, \$5.00; Ruffle or Flower doilies 12 in., \$3.00; Potholders, 65¢ ea. \$1.10 pair. Turtle wash cloth 40¢. Butterfly for hankie corner, crocheting or tatting, 50¢. Lace in tatting or crocheting. Embroidery. Send stamped envelope for information. Mrs. Wright, Berkeley 21, Mo.

CORRECT REPAIRS MADE ON WATCHES. Send yours for free estimate to, KATHRYN A. ROSS, HENRY FIELD JEWELRY DEPT., Shenandoah, Iowa.

BEAUTIFUL TATTING, corner and edge on white linen handkerchief. Any color, \$1 ea. Immediate delivery. Mrs. Earl Prall, Mt. Sterling, Iowa.

SMOCKED DRESSES, Children's dressmaking. Laura Mitchell, Bedford, Iowa. (Note new address).

QUILT TOPS. Wedding ring, \$15. Others \$6 & \$7.50 ea. Money order. Mrs. Herman Radke, Van Meter, Iowa.

PURE LINEN HANKIES. Crocheted edge and corner, \$1.25 ea. Leona Lambert, Linneus, Mo.

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2



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Yellow & Blue

- 4 lbs. copper sulphate
- 3 lbs. rock salt
- 1 gallon of water

Green

- 1 lb. boric acid
- 1 gallon of water

Red

- 1 lb. strontium nitrate
- 1 gallon of water

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Sing we all merrily
Christmas is here,
The day that we love best
Of days in the year.

Bring forth the holly,
The box, and the bay,
Deck out our cottage
For glad Christmas-day.

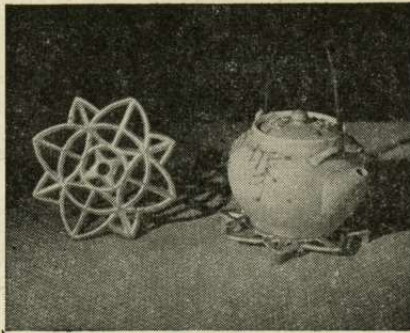
Sing we all merrily,
Draw around the fire,
Sister and brother,
Grandson and sire.
—Unknown

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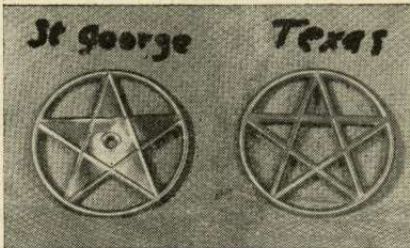
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- 1 16x20"
- 1 14x16"
- 2 10x14"
- 4 8x10"
- 2 6x9"

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