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Kitchen-Klatter

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Magazine

SHENANDOAH, IOWA

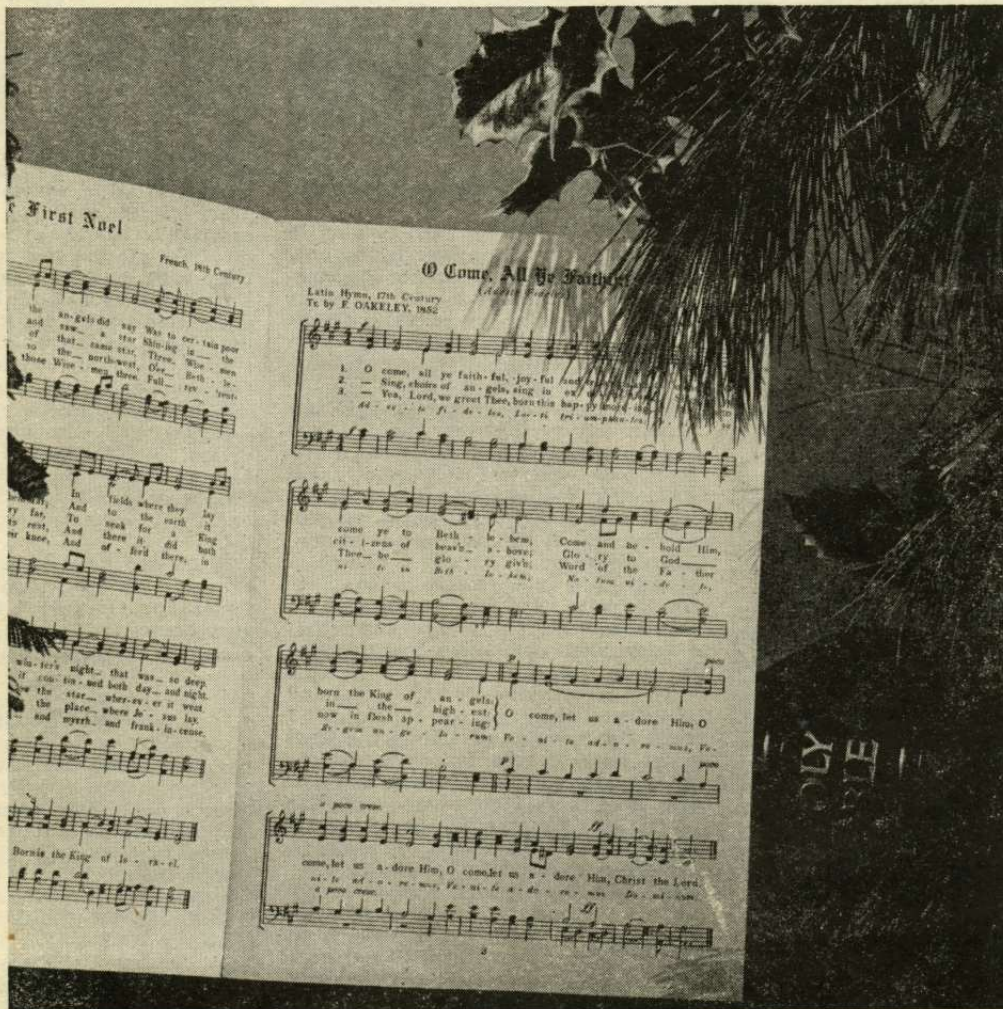
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LETTER FROM LEANNA

KITCHEN-KLATTER MAGAZINE

"More Than Just Paper And Ink"

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Dear Friends:

If everything moves along on its customary schedule you'll be reading this a day or so after Thanksgiving. At this time of the year both Lucile and I regret the fact that we must keep our usual date with the printers for it would be nice to give you complete details about our family gatherings immediately after they happen. But even fast printers need more than just a few hours to set type and run off thousands of copies of something, so we'll just have to do the best we can in anticipating what is ahead.

Last year Mart and I spent a very happy Thanksgiving with Betty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Crandall, at Ashaway, Rhode Island, but this year we'll be right here at home. At two o'clock we expect to sit down to the meal that we gave you the menu for in our November issue. As far as I can figure out we must turn our dining room table so that it extends part way into the living room, for otherwise I don't know how Mart and I, Howard, Mae, Donna, Lucile, Russell, Juliana, Wayne, Abigail, Emily, Alison, Margery, Oliver and Martin, plus Fred Fischer, will ever get around it.

No doubt we'll put up a card table at the side for the children, and this will relieve a little of the congestion. We'd like to have Dorothy's family with us but at this date I don't know if they'll be able to come.

We've learned that these big holiday meals are easier on everyone if we share the cooking, so Abigail will roast the turkey (she does a masterful job on this) and make the dressing; I'll take care of the mashed potatoes and giblet gravy; Margery will prepare the orange beets and see that the rolls are heated; Mae will make the perfection salad, and Lucile will be responsible for the pies. If you're still trying to prepare everything yourself for a family dinner, I'd suggest that you try splitting up the various jobs and see if you don't think it works out better.

Margery and Oliver are now nicely settled in their new home, a picture of which appears in this issue. Only one house is between us, and since Oliver is gone so much with their car, it will be much easier for Margery to get back and forth for our radio visit.

Many of you have asked what type of business takes Oliver out of town, so I should explain that he is employed by Central Surveys, a Shenan-

doah firm that takes polls of public opinion all over the country. They have a large staff and travel in groups. These different assignments take the men from coast to coast, and home looks mighty good to them when they get back to Shenandoah.

This house that they have just moved into is ideal for their purpose. There is a full basement in good repair with a gas furnace (a great help with Oliver gone so much) and laundry area; on the first floor is a large entrance hall with an open staircase, a living room, dining room, kitchen, bath and two bedrooms; the second floor is a complete apartment that has often been rented in the past to high school teachers, an excellent location for them since the high school is only one block away.

Martin has a huge yard to play in—in fact, a power mower is the only answer to that yard during the summer months. There is also a garage at the rear of the lot, so all in all it's a place where they can settle down and have a real family home through the years to come.

When you read Betty's letter in this issue you'll see that they too are moving into a new home. Mart and I saw this house when we visited Betty and Frederick last year, and it certainly will make a wonderful parsonage for the families of all Congregational ministers who serve in Bristol in the years ahead. It's going to be a big place for Betty to keep up, but she's so energetic and such a good manager that I know she's competent to cope with it.

They are anxious for us to come and visit them when they get settled, but I don't think we'll make it to the East coast again in the foreseeable future. As a matter of fact, I don't know at this time if we'll go away during the winter months ahead, but if we do take a trip it will be back to Redlands, California rather than to Florida.

Jessie, Martha and I have many happy weekends together these days. In this issue you'll find a letter from Jessie's daughter, Ruth Shambaugh Watkins—it was written immediately after Jessie left there and returned to her home in Clarinda.

Ruth's husband, Bob Watkins, is a commercial artist who does part of his work at an office in New York and part of it in his office at home. They have just finished building a modern house outside of Greenwich, Connecticut, and Jessie reports that their lo-

cation is beautiful with woods on every hand. This is the fourth house that Bob and Ruth have built since they were married—two in Clarinda, one in California and now this new one in Connecticut. Since Jessie sold her large home she has lived in one of the Clarinda houses.

Emily celebrated her fifth birthday in November with a little party in the late afternoon. She goes to morning kindergarten so it didn't seem wise to try and have the party at school—no mother wants her youngster to come home at 11:30 full of ice cream and cake. I presume that after the first of the year she'll attend afternoon kindergarten since it is the custom at Central School to alternate from semester to semester.

Christmas will be here before we know it. In selecting helpful material for this issue we felt that most clubs and church organizations have some kind of a Christmas program and that perhaps a devotional program would aid more people than anything else we could publish. I'm sure that many of you are responsible for this type of program and will be greatly relieved to find the lovely service prepared by Mabel Nair Brown.

I hope that Kitchen-Klatter will make many new friends this holiday season by going into homes as Christmas gifts. People who have moved far away from the Midwest write and tell us that it's just like getting a long, newsy letter from home to find Kitchen-Klatter in their mail box every month, so if you have relatives or friends who have moved to other sections of the country, remember them with a gift subscription.

I think that we'll all be together for Christmas aside from Frederick's family. Much as we would like to have a complete family reunion during some holy season, it doesn't seem as if this can ever be since a minister is extremely busy throughout the entire period. But the rest of us can gather here at the family home for our tree, Christmas carols and gift exchange, and for this we are profoundly grateful.

A blessed Christmas to each and everyone of you. May the spirit of Peace and Good Will illumine all of your homes.

Affectionately yours—Leanna

NO ROOM

No room in the inn, at the close of the day,

Mary and Joseph turned sadly away
To seek shelter and rest in a stable near by,

Where the meek, lowly oxen heard the first cry

Of the Christ Child, born on that Holy Night

While all about shone a glorious light!
No room in our hearts for the lessons

He taught,
No room in the world for the peace that He brought,

No room?
Forgiveness we beg as we kneel to pray

For good will toward men on this Christmas day.

—Carrie Wiggins

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS WE'VE USED

By
Lucile

Every year about the middle of December we go up to the storeroom and bring down the silver stars that you see in the picture on this page. These make such an effective but inexpensive holiday decoration that I thought you might like a couple of pointers about them.

All of these stars were cut from heavy aluminum foil. It's no longer a problem to get ahold of such foil, but when we cut the first stars around ten years ago our only source of supply was the foil that comes packed around large amounts of photographic paper. Every scrap was precious in those days and we saved for a long time to get enough to start our star collection.

We made paper patterns first and experimented to get just the right shapes; then the pattern was traced on the foil (which had been folded to correspond to the pattern, of course) with a knife blade and cut out with scissors.

It so happens that the wall you're looking at in the picture is covered with burlap, a perfect surface for such decorations because you can simply tack the stars up with common pins. But when we first started using stars for decorations we had only smooth plaster walls in our Hollywood apartment. What we did was to purchase very cheap blue cotton yardage, enough to cover an area where the davenport stood, tack it to the molding with thumb tacks and let it hang free. The stars were pinned to this, and if I say so myself, they looked stunning.

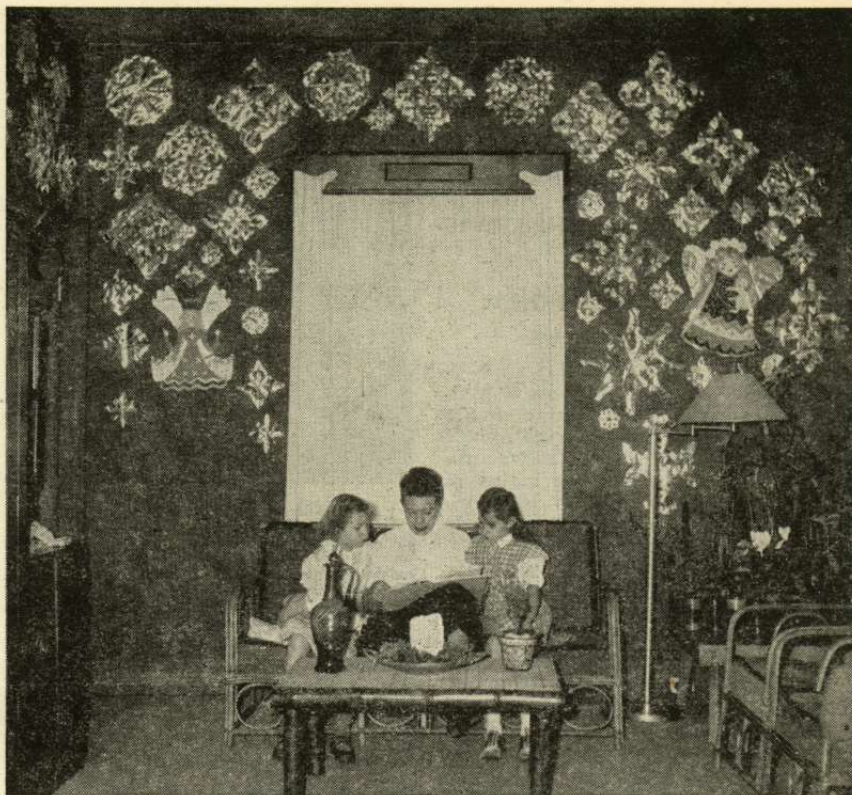
If you have patterned wallpaper you couldn't use these silver foil stars effectively, but if you *do* have solid color drapes you can certainly achieve some beautiful and unusual decorations. Incidentally, if you have walls papered in a solid color you can apply the stars with tiny pieces of Scotch tape. They won't be up long enough to leave any marks when the tape is taken off. Scotch tape was completely unavailable during the war years when we lived in Hollywood or we would have used it then rather than going to the expense of buying the blue yardage to use for a background.

The two angels you can see in this picture were made six years ago. They were drawn free-hand on heavy white construction paper and colored with crayola. The wings are made of silver foil and applied with Scotch tape.

On the coffee table in front of us is the big white candle that burns every night until we take down our decorations in January. It stands on a large tray and is surrounded by pine cones, very small ones. We scatter Bittersweet berries through these cones for a dash of color.

TO REMEMBER THIS CHRISTMAS

Give what you have; to some it may be better than you dare to think.—Longfellow.



On this page Lucile describes the stars . . . Juliana's and Kristin's term for what are really snowflakes.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Last year immediately following the holidays we received this letter from a friend in Iowa. We put it safely away until December of 1953 when the ideas it contains could be passed on to you folks who may be wondering, just about this time, how to make the decorative candles that are now so popular.

"Dear Girls: I thought you might enjoy hearing about the candles that I made before Christmas.

Here in our town we can purchase 10 lb. cakes of Glo-Wax, plus the wicking, at our Co-op Oil Station, and I presume that this is also the case in many other towns. The wax is melted in a double-boiler, molded in various shapes, and then holes are drilled in the center and wicks inserted.

You may get different colors by adding melted crayolas or oil paint coloring to the melted wax. These candles will glow when lighted.

After your candles are firmly set you may make them fancy by melting more wax and letting it start to cool. Then just as it starts to firm over the top you whip it with an egg beater—you'll find that it whips just like cream! At this point you must work fast for you take a fork and put this "frosting" around the candle, being careful not to cover all of the candle for it will glow only through the candle itself and not through the "frosting."

You may leave the candle this way, or you can take "glitter" (silver or multicolor) and sprinkle over this "frosting" before it gets hard. You have to do a little at a time, and if

you have a large candle it may be necessary to re-melt and re-whip the wax.

White frosting on a colored candle creates a beautiful effect. White candles with frosting are also beautiful with glitter. You may also use Christmas stickers (poinsettias, etc.) and make a picture candle by putting whipped wax around it and on the rest of the candle. You fasten the stickers on by dipping the sticky side in hot wax and applying it *immediately* to the candle, being careful not to dip the top side in the wax.

Our most popular candle was a lamb candle molded in the lamb cake mold. Of course you mold it in halves, put your wick in the center of the head, and use hot wax to stick the two halves together. Trim off the edges with a knife and frost it, except for the face which should glow, with whipped wax. Sprinkle glitter on the frosting and tie a red ribbon around its neck with a big bow.

I used melted crayola to make the eyes and mouth show up—black for the eyes and red for the mouth. A match stick is good to use for this job.

I made sixteen of these by myself and helped someone else make five. Some of these were used for gifts and the rest were sold at \$2.00 each. Incidentally, 10 lbs. of wax will make three lamb candles, and a little will be left over.

You can use your imagination and turn to *anything* for a mold as long as it's smooth and is not larger at the bottom than at the top."—M.W.

Bounty always receives part of its value from the manner in which it is bestowed.—Samuel Johnson.



THE MESSAGE OF THE CHRISTMAS VOICES

A CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

By Mabel Nair Brown

Stage Setting: At left, on a high table or pedestal, place a large candle and a closed Bible. At the right, place a small untrimmed Christmas tree upon a small table. Later, as indicated in reader's narration, the various individuals come in and place their symbols upon this tree.

"Silent Night" played softly (violin with piano, if possible — otherwise piano alone) as reader in white dress, or a choir robe, enters and lights the candle and opens the Bible, then takes her place at extreme left front of stage.

Reader: ("Hark The Herald Angels Sing" played softly.)

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of the darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Reader: (continues) "The light that shineth in our hearts—what is the real meaning we should get from the glow or light that gives such a lift, such joy to our hearts at Christmas? If all the symbols of Christmas might speak what would their message be? Is theirs a message we should carry with us as we travel Life's way on through the new year to another Christmas? With these words by Grace Gordon let us open our hearts and our minds to The Christmas Voices."

(Music: "There's A Song In The Air")

"Cheer up!" calls the holly so scarlet and gay,

"Be true!" is the word of the ever-green spray,

"Rejoice!" ring the bells in their happy accord,

"O come ye to Bethlehem, worship the Lord!"

"O haste!" 'tis the message of star in the sky,

"Fear not!" is the greeting of angels on high,

And hark, in the heart is the Christmastide Word,

"O come ye to Bethlehem, worship the Lord!"

Yes, the merry bells, the happy bells of Christmas bid us to rejoice for unto



We think this picture of Linda Lee Lorensen calls up all of a baby's wide-eyed surprise at the sight of her first Christmas tree. She now lives in Wilmington, Calif. with her mother while her daddy, Lt. W. D. Lorensen is serving in Taegu, Korea with the 59th MP Company. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Lorensen, live in York, Nebr.

us a Son is given that through Him there might be peace on earth, good will toward men. If we would but keep the echoes of the Christmas bells ringing in our heart throughout the year, perhaps they would remind us that He pointed the way to peace on earth when He said, "Love thy neighbor", "Do unto others—" and "Turn the other cheek." Is that the voice of the Christmas bell?"

(First person enters and hangs a bell on the left side of the tree and then stands to left and slightly forward from the tree as song "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day" is sung.)

Reader: "How cheerful and heart-warming are the candles of Christmas!" (Music: "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" as second person places candle on right side of tree and steps to right and forward from tree). "The candle has ever signified for us Him who is the Light Of The World, and if we keep the candle glow bright within our hearts for *everyday* as well as this special day, would not our fellowmen be warmed in the friendship of that glow so that truly it could be said His Light does shine in this world?"

Reader (continues): "Christ is God's gift to the world. The Wise Men came bearing gifts to the Babe in the Manger. Down through the years people have given gifts, on His birthday, to those whom they love, but if these gifts might talk would not they tell us that the giving and the sharing should not be a seasonal thing but something to be made a part of our daily living?"

But as God has been good and generous to us, so we should be to others. Today we cannot turn a deaf ear to those all over the world who need the gift of our friendship, our love, our knowledge, and to share in our abundance and plenty. And as we share with others, let us do it with kindness, with love, and do it prayerfully and willingly."

(Song: "Bless Thou The Gifts Our Hands Have Brought" as third person places a small gift on lower left side of tree and steps back to left.)

Reader: "Haste" says the Star, a beacon of blessing o'er a shadowed earth telling us to look up! lift up! to hope on!! With faith we must follow that Star as did the shepherds and the wisemen, undaunted and true of heart. We, too, must offer what humble gifts and talents we have and only then can we expect a better world, a better tomorrow.

(Fourth person places star at top of tree as "Star Of East" is sung, and then steps right).

Reader: "Lastly, with a strand of bright shiny tinsel which we weave in and out among the branches of our tree we tie the tree together, so to speak, binding the symbols into a well-balanced whole. So the thread of tolerance and understanding running through our daily life can sooth and weld together troubled and discouraged hearts, and mend and strengthen weakening and faltering friendships.

(Fifth person drapes the tinsel on the tree and steps to right.)

Reader: (steps toward tree and gestures toward it) "And its green boughs breathe, as they shine and curve, "O the happiest lives are the lives that serve."

(Music of the song "O Christmas Tree" is played softly as the last verse is sung.)

"O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! How richly God has decked thee! Thou bidst us true and faithful be, And trust in God unchangingly. O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! How richly God has decked thee!"

Reader: "Rejoice! Shine out! Share and give! Look up and have faith! Have tolerance and understanding! These are the Christmas voices. Let us pray that our ears may be open to hear them!"

(Reader steps forward and with outstretched arms gives this benediction) "May the light of Christmas shine in your window, the light of peace in your heart this Christmas season and all the year through. Amen." (Music bursts triumphantly into "Joy To The World" as playlet ends.)

CAN YOU KEEP CHRISTMAS?

Are you willing . . .

To stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;

To remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old;

To stop asking how many of your friends love you and ask yourself if you love them enough;

To bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts;

To try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;

To trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;

To make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open—

Are you willing to do these things even for a day?

If so, then you can keep Christmas.

—Henry Van Dyke



Hello, Good Friends:

This dark, bleak November day is the very first day we've had here throughout the entire autumn when it really seemed to me as if Thanksgiving and Christmas were actual realities and not just dates on the calendar. There's no rain, you understand, but every somber looking cloud seems to say that winter is coming.

As I washed the breakfast dishes this morning I had a fit of wondering once again what in the world ever happened to our Christmas angel. Have you ever had anything disappear into thin, clear air? If so, then you know how baffling and aggravating such a thing can be.

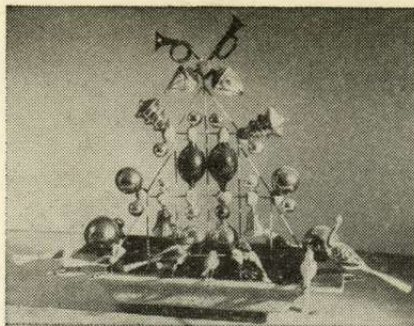
Four years ago we bought this angel, a lovely, lovely angel for the very top of our Christmas tree. We expected to use it for years. All through the holidays that first season (as it turned out, the *only* season) it shimmered beautifully at the top of our big spruce tree, and when the day arrived to dismantle all of the trimmings, we took it down and packed it carefully away along with other things in a large cardboard carton.

When the next holiday rolled around we went to the storeroom to get our Christmas tree decorations, and unbelievable as it still seems, that angel wasn't there. Everything else was there, you understand, but no sign of the angel. We tore the storeroom to pieces. We looked everywhere that a human being could search for anything in this house, but never again did we see the angel.

Now things don't just disintegrate when they're made of solid material, so all we can conclude it that we just *thought* we took it from the tree and packed it away. Russell, Juliana and I all think we positively remember taking it down, but evidently we didn't for you know and I know that things don't get up and walk away from the storeroom.

Yet almost as baffling is the problem of what became of it if we actually didn't take it down from the tree! That was a tall tree, and Russell had to use our step-ladder to get up and reach the top branch. Furthermore, the angel was inclined to tip forward so he wired it up firmly and also used an extension cord so that it could be plugged into the baseboard separately from the tree lights. If it just plain fell from the tree we would have found it on the floor.

Well . . . I guess we'll never know. But one thing is certain: we never



Last Christmas this arrangement stood on a coffee table in our living room. We used a grey and red dish and built up the frame from wire clothes hangers twisted into the right shape. Molding clay was used to anchor the brilliant decorations.

think about our Christmas tree decorations without wondering all over again what in the world ever happened to our angel.

I think that half the pleasure of Christmas is having decorations that are familiar and well loved. Every year we add something to our collection, and now we've accumulated quite an array of brilliantly colored balls and ornaments. Juliana greets all of them like old friends for the bulk of them she has seen and enjoyed since she was big enough to enjoy a tree.

In fact, some of those ornaments date back to Russell's childhood! I know that when we were first married and combined our worldly possessions it came as quite a surprise to me to have him produce things for our first tree that he had carefully kept and saved for many years. I do hope we can manage to preserve enough of these fragile things that Juliana can someday have them in her own home for her own children to enjoy.

Russell and I finally managed to get out of town for a weekend in Des Moines where we visited old friends. We had a beautiful day to drive up, and as we rode along I thought how wonderfully prosperous and substantial our state seemed on that autumn afternoon. Surely many Europeans who travel in Iowa must be flabbergasted at the sight of our big farms with their well painted buildings, fences in excellent repair, and every evidence of solid comfort.

In Des Moines we visited the Art Center, and although I had seen many good photographs of this building, I was totally unprepared for its wonderful beauty. It is a masterpiece, one that Des Moines must be extremely proud of and with excellent reason. I wish that every citizen of our state could go there and see with his own eyes what I am sure is one of the great buildings in the world today. I think it's quite a comment on our progressive Midwest that in Lincoln and Des Moines are to be found structures that command the respect and admiration of architects the world over. We don't need to go to New York or San Francisco to see sheer beauty.

Probably many of you are flying around these days getting ready for bazaars. I think that most of us could do with some new ideas, so this year after your bazaar is all over and things

have calmed down, I wish you'd take time to write about anything different you tried that turned out successfully. We can share those letters with everyone on our daily radio visits.

We always manage to dispose of all our aprons and pot-holders and dish towels, but we don't have much luck trying to move embroidered pillow cases. Is this your experience? Well, all groups differ in some way or another, so I hope that you'll write and tell us what you find to be sure-fire items.

This year I'd like to do some ambitious Christmas sewing, but what I'll actually get accomplished is something else again. I *love* to sew, as all of you know who know me at all, but it seems so hard to get my teeth into a job. I have to keep my mind on what I'm doing because I'm not a natural born seamstress, and with every interruption I find myself getting jumpy and distracted. If I can just clear the decks, disconnect the telephone and plan to sew straight through for several hours I can really make great headway, but not many days like this can be managed.

The only positive plans we have for Juliana's Christmas gift this year is to finish out her set of *The Little House* books by Laura Ingall's Wilder. These are classics — no doubt about it. I know that many of you share my feeling about this, for there isn't a week that passes without a letter from some mother who tells me how much her children have enjoyed these wonderful books that make pioneer days so vivid and real.

Incidentally, we learned that Mrs. Wilder is still living (as of a year or so ago) in southern Missouri. She is now in her eighties and has been widowed for several years. Until I read an interesting article about her I didn't know that schools have been named after her, and that every year thousands of children write to her.

We have a wonderful library here in Shenandoah, one that makes people from large cities marvel. Not in size, you understand, for it is old and completely inadequate for present needs. But the books inside those walls would do credit to *any* city library in quality. Through the years a very fine collection has been gathered together — a limited budget has certainly been spent to the finest advantage.

Soon we are to have an addition to our library and then the room so badly needed will be available. Wayne is a member of the library board and is extremely enthusiastic about the plans that have been made.

I grew up in our library and Juliana loves it too, but I feel that each little girl or boy should have in his home a few books of his very own to love and to read and reread through the years. I know that someday the *Little House* books will go into Juliana's own home and will be enjoyed all over again.

Time to do some telephoning on Bazaar plans, so this must be all.

May this be a wonderfully happy Christmas for you — the three of us send our warmest wishes for a joyful holiday.

Lucile

HOW DOES CHRISTMAS COME TO YOUR HOUSE?

By
Mabel Nair Brown

Early in December, with happy hearts and willing hands, we bring Grandpa's old sleighbells down from the storerooms and get them polished and hung on the front door. SUD-DENLY IT'S CHRISTMAS!!

With every jingle of those merry bells, our spirits mount another notch and our enthusiasm and anticipation grow and grow. The days just aren't long enough to hold all the joys, the fun and the sacred moments for just thinking, that we want to crowd into them. For, long ago, we learned that the secret of *having* a "Merry Christmas" is to *make* it.

If you and yours have not yet learned this happy secret for getting the best out of Christmas, try it this year. NOW is the time to have a genuine family Christmas with loads of fun sharing, gift making and homemade decorating, plus plenty of tradition-making, too! It is this kind of Christmas that is the memory-making Christmas which should be the happy heritage of every child.

Here are some starter ideas to set you going on the Christmas making at your house.

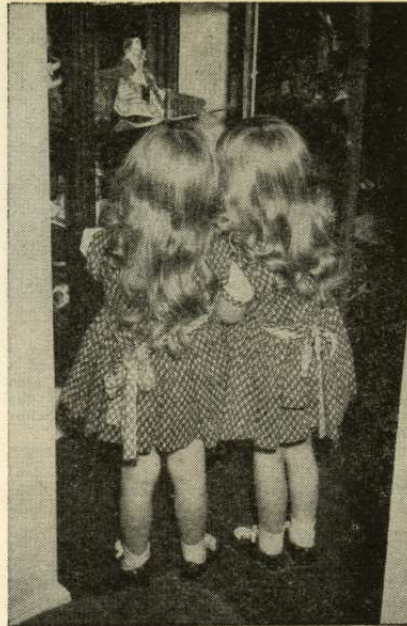
DECORATIONS TO BECOME TRADITIONAL

1. If you, too have Grandpa's sleighbells hanging in the attic or out in the workshop, do get them in to ring out a "Merry Christmas" at your house. We use a vinegar and salt solution (and lots of elbow grease!) to polish ours. To keep them shining and bright I gave them a coat of clear shellac. (Clear fingernail polish would work, too.) The bells can swing merrily on the front gate or can be tied to a swag of evergreen on the front door.

We wanted ours to be truly traditional so we found an old discarded kerosene lantern which we painted bright red. A piece of foil was tucked over the wick and burner. Then we filled the glass chimney with the hard candies wrapped in the colored foils. The lantern was hung on the front door with a large evergreen swag behind it and a huge red ribbon bow was tied to the lantern handle. Then the cherished bells were placed so that a string of bells hung on either side of the lantern. We have yet to greet a holiday visitor who can resist lifting those bells just to hear their merry chimes. And every tinkle seems to recall some happy family association of Christmases gone by.

If you are entertaining during the holidays, you can work the sleighbells into a charming centerpiece by placing them on the table lengthwise or in a circle and then tucking greens and tree ornaments among and around the bells.

2. If you have several of the old lantern chimneys, try using them in a lovely hurricane lamp effect. As a holder or base for the chimney, mold aluminum foil over a small shallow dish and anchor a low fat candle to this holder with a little modeling clay; then set the globe over it. Or if you



Disappointed not to see their faces?
Look at the next page.

have blocks of the stray foam, use it for the holder as you can push the candle in this to make it stand firmly. Place greens and Christmas baubles around the base. We like this arrangement as a background for three tiny praying angel figurines which we have. Or it is very effective to have the Family Bible (opened to the Christmas story) placed in front of the chimney arrangement on an occasional table. At a church or club supper, try setting up several of these globes down the center of the long tables, use blue candles and lightly tuck some blue or white spun glass (angel) hair around the base. Sprinkle gold or silver stars on the hair and here and there stand one of the small madonna figurines.

Or how about this lantern chimney being used as a "showcase" for a tiny madonna or angel? Set it on a small table and beside it place grandmother's conch shell into which you have tucked some evergreen sprigs — unusual and so pretty!

3. Do you have one of the old kerosene kitchen wall lamps with a reflector? Just substitute a nice fat red candle for the lamp in the wall bracket and add a few greens for accent and you will have a most attractive wall arrangement for the holidays and, with a reflector, it's *double* loveliness!

4. Would you like a large star to use as an outdoor decoration on the house? As a foundation, cut a large star from chicken mesh. Cover the star with greens by sticking them into the holes in the wire. If you want a lighted star, use a string of the outdoor lights and wire a bulb to each point. If you do not care for the lighted star, then outline the star with some of the plastic tree balls wired into place, (or paint burned out light bulbs to resemble the ornaments). Another idea is to hang the star thickly with small purse mirrors among the greens and let a spotlight pick up their shimmering glow.

5. SUGAR PLUM TREE ORNA-

MENTS will delight the children. You will need both the large and small gumdrops, some colored toothpicks, pipe cleaners and some ribbon or yarn. To make snowflakes, stick a small gum drop on the end of several toothpicks and then stick these into all sides of a large gumdrops. Add a wire or ribbon hanger. Make butterflies by sticking a pipecleaner into a large gum drop and shaping it to form a wing. Use two on each side and have the two top wings larger than the bottom ones. Cut a tiny piece of gum drop and stick on a short piece of toothpick for the antenna. Jelly beans might be used for the body of the butterfly, too. Turn the children loose on these sugar plum ornaments — just give them candies, pipe cleaners, etc., and they'll come up with all sorts of ideas.

6. AN OLD STAR SHAPED TRIVET found in our attic has become a favorite decoration for our buffet. We painted it white and then wired one of the very small ball ornaments to each point and a cluster of them in the center. It is placed on a bed of greens, with tall green tapers in star candle holders (points of these holders also filled with the tiny ornaments) flanking it on either side. The colorful trivet reflects beautifully in the long mirror over the buffet.

7. We always decorate our windows, and the snowflakes cut from aluminum foil and pinned in a "scattered effect" on the wine red drapes in our dining room always calls forth comment, but is our living room windows that really get the "ohs and ahs". The drapes are turquoise green satin damask. They have a wide pleated valance of the same material across the top of each double window. To this valance we carefully pin fragile Christmas tree balls in all colors and sizes, but with gold ones predominating. They are simply breathtaking for they look very much as if they are airy, fragile soap bubbles wafted there on a breath of air!

8. Is there a discarded COAL SCUTTLE in your attic or basement? Bring it out, paint it bright red or gild it gold or silver, fill with Christmas greens and a few pine cones and let it stand beside the door in the entrance hall or use it as an outdoor decoration. It would be wonderful to have a pair of these and use one on each side of the entrance steps. There could be a jaunty red oilcloth or plastic bow tied to the handle. A few gaily colored plastic toys might be tucked among the greens for accent.

SNOW STAR

I walked upon a lonely street
With steps the tired know,
When soft upon my sleeve there fell
A pointed flake of snow.

In solitary loveliness
The perfect crystal lay,
A star, that knew a moment's form,
Then blurred and slipped away.

But beauty thronged the lonely place;
My feet were heaven-shod,
Because I held, just for a breath,
A little star from God!

—Unknown

BETTY DRIFTMIER WRITES THIS MONTH

Dear Folks:

This month I am pinch-hitting for Frederick who, at the moment, is extremely hard-pressed for time.

For the past five weeks, in addition to his own work here in Bristol, he has been teaching at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He is teaching a course entitled: "The Art of Presentation and Staff Briefing" which, in plain English, means public speaking geared to navy needs. Two nights a week he leaves home at 6:30 and does not return until after 10:00 P. M. There are also two noon classes which take time from his already busy day. But he is enjoying his contacts with the naval and marine officers, many of whom either have been stationed in our beloved Hawaii or are destined to go there soon.

The big excitement in our lives at the moment is the prospect of moving soon into a new parsonage. Our church has just purchased a lovely old estate directly across the street from the church building. This new parsonage, like the church and the parish house, is made of granite blocks with walls a foot and a half thick. The rooms are graciously spacious with high ceilings and with fireplaces in each room. The house is rather ornate outside and inside, with decorative woodwork throughout. There is a marvelous study which will be the pride and joy of Frederick's life. We have asked to buy the library bookcases and most of the antique furniture in this particular room as well as some other beautiful pieces in the house.

The dining room has an old-fashioned plate rail around all four walls about two feet below the ceiling. We have asked to buy the Deft ware which now graces this plate rail since we own no lovely picture plates ourselves. Of course there is much to be done before we move in, for all the rooms need papering and painting and we hope to have the kitchen and bathroom modernized. The kitchen has a fireplace and can be made into the most liveable and yet practical room in the house. It is the room in which I am most interested since, in common with all other wives, I spend most of my waking hours there.

This new home has much to offer Mary Leanna and David. It is set in the middle of a huge lawn with many unusual and beautiful trees all about. In the back corner there is a space about twenty feet square all covered with a high shrub which will make an ideal "hide out" for Mary Leanna and her gang.

On one side of the house there is a small stone building with two rooms. I think it may have been slave quarters in the old days. One room will be used to store storm windows and yard equipment. The other room has a little fireplace and will make a wonderful playhouse for the children. Since it is under trees and made of stone, this little house will be cool and comfortable in summer.

The third floor of the house has two or three finished rooms plus other storage space. One of these rooms



The adorable twins are Christine and Cathleen Cummins, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cummins, 4202 Cumming Street, Omaha, Nebr.

will become the childrens' indoor playroom, and another will serve for indoor laundry drying. As you can see, it will be something of a job to settle and keep such a house, but we are a family that enjoys having lots of space in which to live, so we look forward to this move with great anticipation.

Frederick has wanted a dog ever since we were married and now that our new yard seems large enough for a dog to enjoy without causing annoyance to others, I am afraid Christmas may find a little Beagle hanging on our tree. Perhaps you can guess that I am not quite as enthusiastic about dogs as the rest of my family, yet in the warmth and joy that goes with Christmas I shall probably even find a place in my heart for a dog!

Last Monday evening one of our garden ladies of considerable fame in this locality gave our new Garden Club a lecture-workshop on the arrangement of dried materials. I was amazed to discover how many common weeds could be worked into clever and beautiful arrangements.

As all of you who are interested in flower arranging know, each arrangement must have a focal point. Our lecturer, Mrs. Benard, used some exotic things to create this part of her arrangements — such things as Hawaiian wood roses and the beautiful sea grape leaves which come from tropical or near tropical areas.

But one of the most effective focal points was made by placing several dried artichokes in a cluster. She had purchased these green from the store and just allowed them to dry naturally. The process of drying takes from three to five weeks and some artichokes rot in the process. To achieve a spread flower effect, she had forced bits of paper down between each of the leaves of one artichoke. This takes a good bit of time, but the resulting dried flower was most effective as the focal point of her arrangement. I think that there may be a run on artichokes in this town as a result of her demonstration.

If you do not live on the water, you can't begin to imagine the terrible ordeal we experienced last week. Our neighbor and very good friend was lost in a small boat on the storm-swept ocean for two days and nights. With another friend of ours he had gone over to Cape Cod on Thursday morning to bring back a new fishing boat about twenty-four feet long. As they neared home a northeast storm started to blow, and just as darkness settled and they were only an hour and a half out off port their motor gave out. The wind blew them back out to sea, and for two days and nights they were tossed about by waves thirty feet high.

Here in Bristol we had given up all hope of ever seeing them again when they were finally found by a Coast Guard search plane. The Coast Guard boat that is anchored near our house was directed by the plane to the rescue. We all went down to the boat landing to welcome them home Saturday night, and I can assure you that many a tear of joy was shed that evening. Those of us who love the sea so much also know how cruel and merciless it can be.

What would you think if I were to tell you that right here in the most densely settled part of the United States we sometimes have wild deer on our front lawns? Well, that is the truth. Just a few nights ago a 200 pound buck deer was struck by an automobile and killed when it jumped out of the bushes on the front lawn of our neighbor's house. Because the deer was very wet and the night was perfectly dry, we believe that it had swum over from one of the islands out in the bay. Some of the islands are quite heavily forested and they do have a few deer.

If the deer *did* come from one of the islands, it means that it had had to swim more than two miles through cold, choppy water, and that would be quite a feat.

After a long, long dry spell we are now having much rain. On rainy days I look forward to late afternoon when Frederick comes home from his church duties. As soon as he gets here he usually sets up his motion picture equipment and shows some good films to the children. While they watch the pictures, I have an opportunity to prepare the supper.

The best thing we have for entertaining our three year old David is a small electric phonograph. It is his very own, and my, but he does enjoy it. He will play his collection of unbreakable records for hours at a stretch. If your child doesn't have a nice little phonograph, I suggest that you give him one for Christmas. It is a marvelous thing for keeping a child out of mischief.

As the Christmas season approaches, our family wishes for you and yours all the blessings of this holy time. How fortunate we are to have as our heritage a religion which presents us once a year with the opportunity to humble ourselves before a babe in a manger.

Very sincerely yours,

Betty

"Recipes Tested in the Kitchen - Klatter Kitchen"

By LEANNA and LUCILE

DOROTHY'S CHRISTMAS COOKIES (By request)

Into a bowl put:

- 3 cups sifted flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 scant tsp. soda
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg

Cut into this.

- 1 cup of shortening

In another bowl:

- Beat 2 eggs thoroughly
- Add 1 cup sugar
- 4 Tbls. sweet milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Beat this well and pour into the dry ingredients. Roll, cut and bake in a 375 degree oven until nicely browned.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH MINCEMEAT

- 5 pounds meat
- 12 pounds apples
- 6 pounds large, soft, flat raisins
- 3 pounds small raisins
- 5 pounds currants
- 2 pounds citron
- 1 1/2 pounds suet
- 6 pounds brown sugar
- 4 Tbls. cinnamon
- 2 Tbls. nutmeg
- 2 Tbls. cloves
- 2 Tbls. salt
- 3 quarts apple cider

Cook down until it begins to thicken. Can in pint jars and seal. This makes 53 pints.

CRANBERRY-MARSHMALLOW SALAD

- 1 pound cranberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 medium sized apple, peeled and diced
- 1 banana, diced
- 1 cup diced orange
- 24 marshmallows, cut in eighths
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup heavy cream, whipped

Mix in a saucepan the cranberries, sugar and water. Simmer until all the skins pop open and the sauce is thickened (about 10 minutes). Chill. Then mix in the other ingredients and fold in the whipped cream. Chill again and serve on crisp lettuce.

CANDY COATED NUTS

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups walnut halves or pecans

Combine sugars and sour cream. Cook to soft-ball stage (236 degrees). Add vanilla and beat until mixture begins to thicken. Add nuts. Stir until well coated. Turn out onto greased platter or cookie sheet. Separate in individual pieces. Makes 2 dozen.



—Columbia News Photo

Have you made a steamed pudding recently?
Be sure you make one this December.

PARTY PUMPKIN PIE

- 32 marshmallows
- 1 cup mashed pumpkin
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. ginger
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup heavy cream, whipped
- 1 baked 9-inch pastry shell.

Place marshmallows, pumpkin and seasonings in top of double boiler. Heat, stirring almost constantly until marshmallows are melted. Let cool. Whip cream and fold into cooled mixture. Place into chilled pastry shell. Chill at least an hour before serving. Can be frozen, then thaw 20 min. before serving.

UNCOOKED CHRISTMAS CANDY

- 1 cup dates
- 1 cup figs
- 6 maraschino cherries
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 1 cup English walnuts
- 2 cups almonds
- 1 cup pecans

Grind all and mix thoroughly. Form in small patties and dip in sugar. Keep in a cool place. Makes about 3 dozen.

MARASCHINO DROPS

Drain and wipe the cherries dry. Dip in melted sweet chocolate and place on buttered cookie sheet.

CHOCOLATE-COATED PEANUT CLUSTERS

8 ounces semi-sweet chocolate
1/2 pound roasted Spanish peanuts
Melt chocolate in top of double boiler over hot water. Remove from heat, add peanuts and stir well. Drop from teaspoon on to waxed paper. Place in refrigerator to chill about 12 hours. Keep in cool place. Makes about 3 dozen clusters.

GRAHAM CRACKER ROLL

30 graham crackers, rolled fine
1/4 pound marshmallows, cut in pieces
1 box dates, cut fine
1 cup chopped English walnuts
Add milk enough to moisten. Mold into a roll and leave in refrigerator over night. Slice and top with whipped cream. Serves 8.

APRICOT CHIFFON PIE

- 1 cup apricot pulp
- 1 envelope gelatine
- 1/3 cup cold water
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 Tbls. lemon juice
- Dash of salt
- 3 egg whites
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup cream, whipped
- 4 drops Kitchen-Klatter almond flavoring

Press apricots (canned or dried fruit that has been cooked until tender) through a sieve.

In top of double boiler put 3 beaten egg yolks, sugar, lemon juice, salt and apricot pulp. Cook over boiling water until it begins to thicken. Add gelatine that has been dissolved in cold water. Remove from fire and when it begins to get firm after standing in refrigerator, fold in the beaten egg whites to which the sugar and almond flavoring have been added. Lastly fold in whipped cream. Turn into baked shell (preferably a graham cracker crumb shell) and let stand until firm. When ready to serve, decorate with a little whipped cream if desired.

This is a fluffy, deliciously flavored pie. You'll make a great success with it.

ABSOLUTELY PERFECT GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST

- 1 1/2 cups finely crushed graham cracker crumbs
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 cup sugar

Combine crumbs, cinnamon and sugar and mix well. Then add butter and mix. Will make a 9-inch deep pie pan shell. Bake at 400 degrees for 8 minutes.

ALMOND CRUNCH

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 lb. semi-sweet chocolate
- 1/2 lb. finely chopped blanched almonds

Toast nuts. Combine butter and sugar and stir over a low heat until sugar melts. Add half the nuts and cook to 310 degrees. Pour into buttered pan and cool. Heat chocolate in double boiler until of soft consistency. Remove and stir until melted. Spread over top and sprinkle with almonds. Cool and turn upside down and pour chocolate and nuts on uncovered side. Break in about 1 to 1 1/2 inch irregular pieces.

SPANISH PENOCHÉ

- 4 cups brown sugar
- 2 Tbls. butter
- 1 cup sweet cream
- 1 cup nut meats

Boil brown sugar, butter and cream, stirring constantly until it reaches the soft ball stage. Add the nut meats and stir until it becomes creamy and doughy. Pour into pans. Chopped raisins, dates, prunes, figs, orange peel, etc., make a variety.

NEW FROZEN FRUIT SALAD

1 envelope gelatin (unflavored)
 1/4 cup lemon juice
 1/2 cup syrup from fruit cocktail
 1 3-oz. package of cream cheese
 1/4 cup mayonnaise
 Dash of salt
 2/3 cup whipping cream
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 1/2 cups fruit cocktail
 1/2 cup crushed drained pineapple
 1/2 cup chopped nuts
 12 marshmallows, cut
 1/4 cup chopped maraschino cherries
 Soften gelatin in lemon juice. Dissolve in boiling syrup from fruit cocktail. Cool until mixture begins to thicken. Blend cream cheese with mayonnaise and salt. Fold into gelatin. Whip cream stiff, gradually adding sugar. Fold in all ingredients. Pour into 2 refrigerator trays and freeze. Serves 12 to 14.

PEANUT BRITTLE

1 cup sugar
 1/2 cup white corn syrup
 1/2 cup water
 1/8 tsp. salt
 1 cup raw peanuts
 1/2 tsp. vanilla
 1 tsp. soda
 1 tsp. butter
 Cook sugar, syrup and water to soft ball stage. Add peanuts and cook to "hard crack" stage or until candy is light brown. Remove from fire and add vanilla, soda and butter. Mix well and place on oiled cookie sheet. Spread as thinly as possible.

HOT SPICY CRANBERRY PUNCH

2 quarts cranberries
 2 quarts water
 Cook until the cranberries pop and then sieve.
 Add 2 1/2 cups sugar
 Juice of 1 lemon
 3 sticks cinnamon
 15 to 20 whole cloves
 Let simmer a little bit and then strain out the spices. Just before serving add 4 cups of brewed tea. The tea should not be too strong. Everything, with the exception of the tea, could be made up ahead of time and heated, adding the tea just before serving.

APPLETS

1 cup thick apple sauce
 2 cups sugar
 1 1/2 envelopes of plain gelatine
 1/3 cup cold water
 1/2 pkg. lemon gelatine
 1/2 cup walnuts cut fine
 1 heaping Tbls. cornstarch
 Dissolve gelatine in cold water. Combine cornstarch and sugar and stir until well mixed. Put apple sauce, sugar and cornstarch in pan and bring to boiling point. Add dissolved gelatine and then add lemon gelatine and stir until dissolved. Cook slowly for 20 minutes over low heat. When cold add walnuts and turn into a buttered pan. Let stand overnight before cutting into squares. Roll each piece in powdered sugar.

Leanna Says - - GIRLS

You'll LIKE my flavorings.

VANILLA LEMON MAPLE ALMOND

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Send all orders for the flavoring and the Cookie Cookbook to

KITCHEN-KLATTER, DEPT. 47, SHENANDOAH, IOWA**HOOSIER HOLIDAY PUNCH**

6 cups cranberries
 3 cups sugar
 6 cups boiling water
 2 cups orange juice
 2 cups lemon juice
 2 qts. ice water
 Combine boiling water, sugar and cranberries and let stand until berries are well softened. Strain through a colander and cool. Add orange and lemon juice and ice water. A quart of iced tea or of iced cider may be used for one of the quarts of ice water.

**APPLE MARSHMALLOW
DAINTIES**

6 apples
 1 cup water
 2 cups sugar
 1/4 cup red cinnamon drops
 3 Tbls. dates or raisins
 2 Tbls. nut meats
 6 marshmallows
 Pare and core apples. Boil sugar, water and cinnamon drops. Add apples and cook until tender. Remove from the fire and stuff apples with the fruit and nuts. Put a marshmallow on each apple and brown in the oven.

INEXPENSIVE "CITRON"

"I often substitute watermelon pickles for citron in either fruit cake or mincemeat.

After it is well pickled I drain off the pieces and let them dry; then roll in sugar each day for three or four days and put away on a plate or rack on a high shelf (wherever warm air rises) and forget for several weeks. Then store in tightly covered jars. Grind or slice whenever needed. It is really candied and has the texture of citron, and the spicy flavor doubles for citron."—Mrs. J. H., Kans.

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Try using the two-pound cheese boxes to pack your icebox cookies in. Line them with wax paper and fill. After they are chilled, turn out and cut. This is very handy.



DOROTHY CATCHES UP ON NEWS FROM THE FARM

Dear Friends:

Once again it is time to set my typewriter up on the kitchen table and write to you about the comings and goings of the Johnson family. On the wall in front of me is a large calendar which I might also call our diary because when anything important or eventful to any one of us happens during the day I make a little note of it on this calendar. As I glanced up at it tonight I was reminded that this had truly been an eventful month for us.

The most exciting thing that happened to Frank and me this month was the fire. This was a grass fire that started in a pasture which does not belong to us, but joins Father Johnson's farm and is very close to his farm buildings and the house. There was an extremely strong wind blowing that day and it was spreading rapidly when we discovered it. With the aid of both the Lucas and Chariton fire departments, plus all the neighbors for miles around, we managed to get it under control just a few yards before it reached our fence line and the fodder shocks that I mentioned in my last letter. On the other side of the pasture where the dense heavy timber begins and stretches for miles, the fire came within two feet. I believe if it had reached this timber it would still be burning.

An important event for Kristin this month was her first 4-H meeting. We are all very happy that she was old enough to join this year and she is looking forward to the meetings with great enthusiasm. Most of the girls in our club this year are junior members and several of them are just Kristin's age, so of course this is their first year too, and I think that will make it all the more interesting for her.

Mother and Dad and Juliana spent a Sunday with us right after Dad's birthday and for once they got to stay all day and weren't scared home early by clouds in the sky. We didn't know what to give Dad for his birthday this year, but I finally thought of the one thing we had on the farm that I knew he would just love. So when he came we had ready for him two big feed sacks full of black walnuts all hulled, washed and dried. As soon as we gave them to him he carried several handfuls to the back porch, got the hammer and cracked and ate so many of them that he wasn't very hungry for dinner when we had it ready.

Frank, Kristin and I had a very lovely weekend in Kansas City with Frank's sister Ruth. She had been writing to us every week since the last of August asking us to come down for the American Royal Horse Show, and since we had never visited her



Here is the picture we promised of Margery's and Oliver's new home.

since she has lived in Kansas City we decided to go. We enjoyed the two performances of the horse show that we saw tremendously. We have seen several horse shows but never one that big. Frank was interested in the stock and other exhibits. He and Kristin had a lot of fun browsing through the saddle shops that are located near the stockyards.

Frank and I have been picking corn. I'm afraid I'm not an awful lot of help, but he thinks it is kind of nice to have me along for company. The other afternoon I didn't go with him and about three o'clock I took some sandwiches and coffee to the field and had a little lunch with him. Of course when I go with him we don't have the lunches because there is no one to bring them to us, so I asked him which he would rather I do: go with him all day or stay home and bring him coffee? He said it was easier to get along without the coffee than the company so I go with him whenever I can.

Kristin's room had their Halloween party Friday afternoon and I made 70 cookies and decorated them and took them in. I made plain round sugar cookies and half of them I frosted orange and used chocolate chips for the eyes, nose and mouth. The other half I frosted with chocolate frosting and used candy corn for decorations. Each child had one of each. Kristin went dressed as Cinderella, silver slippers and all, and her little girl friend dressed as Prince Charming. They were quite a couple.

Last night I attended the Rural Teacher-Director banquet. This is an annual affair and I have told you about the banquets in the past. I was just thinking one day last week that this would be the first banquet I hadn't attended since I started teaching school, and that very day I received an invitation from the Rural Teachers asking me to come as their guest and it made me very happy. For table decorations this year they used the "Horn of Plenty", and carried out the fall colors in their nut cups and programs, so the tables were very colorful and lovely. Miss Jessie Parker, our Iowa State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was the speaker of the evening and she always gives such a good talk.

Several of the horse lovers in Chariton have just recently organized the Chariton Saddle Club. Yesterday Frank came home with membership cards for us. He didn't say anything to Kristin, just handed her the card and she was so tickled she just jumped up and down. We told her last night that there probably wouldn't be

any more trail rides until next Spring, so she was thrilled to death when they called us this morning and said the rest of the members were leaving Chariton in a half-hour and told us when and where to meet them on the road. I didn't feel I could go today because I had some other things I had to get done, but Frank and Kristin met them and Frank led them on a long trail ride through the timber.

Three of the wives had stayed at home and prepared a lovely hot lunch for all of them and brought it out about one o'clock and met them in the meadow in front of Father Johnson's. They rested their horses while they ate their dinner, and then the several children in the group about Kristin's age had a wonderful time trading horses and riding around the meadow. Frank went along with them when they started their eight mile trip home and guided them through the timber and up to the main road.

Kristin has ridden quite a bit, but this was the longest ride she had ever taken and she was a little stiff in the legs tonight, in fact it is the first time she has ever been stiff from riding. I told her to wait until morning, if she thought she was sore tonight. But it was a wonderful day for them and we are all eagerly waiting for the next trail ride. I'm sure that after my first trip I'll be laid up for a week.

Tomorrow will be a very busy day for me, so I think I'll say goodnight and until next month . . .

Sincerely, Dorothy

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR FLOWER LOVERS

"Dear Lucile:

I've found an inexpensive way to remember my flower loving friends at Christmas time and thought perhaps you'd like to pass on the suggestion.

Every year I buy construction paper and make small books of six pages. These pages are tied together with red or green ribbon, and in gold ink on the outside I write this original verse: 'Tis Christmas time, and once again Our gardens look so brown and bare, But we remember them last Spring And all the beauty growing there. I'm sending you these little seeds To plant this coming year, We hope they grow and do real well, And bring you lots of cheer.

At our local store I purchased packages of small coin envelopes and filled each envelope with seed, or as much as needed. I pasted the envelope to one side of a page and wrote an appropriate verse underneath it. I know you won't have room to use more than one verse, but this gives you an idea of what I wrote to go with the seeds:

Buttons grown on bushes,
Just plant these seeds and see,
And when you go to "sow" them,
Just kindly think of me!

Of course this went on the page with Bachelor Button seed

I made about twenty of these little books a year ago last Christmas and you'd be amazed at the comments I heard. People really seem to appreciate such a little gift that carries so much thought with it, and so much promise of beauty to come."—Ia.

GIFTS, GLAMOUR, AND GLITTER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By Virginia Thomas

GIVE A GIFT BRANCH. Choose a pretty branch of evergreen and on it tie tiny packages (hankies, powder puff, bobbie pins, nail file, tie clasp, earrings, scatter pins—to name a few) and then lay the whole thing in a gift box. This is a clever way to include a gift for each member of the family in one package, or the gifts may be all for one person. Add a couple of small tree ornaments to the branch, or tie on some small red ribbon bows. This would be a "different" way to present a money gift. Attach coins or bills to the branch with scotch tape.

GOURD TREE ORNAMENTS are unusual and pretty to make. Simply use odds and ends of bright colored enamel to paint gourds to resemble ball ornaments. Sprinkle some of them with gold glitter while the paint is still wet. Be sure to use a large darning needle to make a hole through the top so that a wire can be attached for hanging. Use this wire to hang the painted gourds on a wire coat hanger or the clothesline to dry.

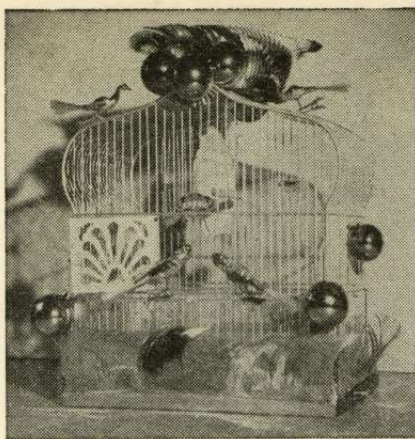
CRAYOLA APRONS will delight the small fry on your gift list. These are the usual small waistband type aprons, with the exception that they are made from plain colored material so that a very deep hem can be turned up on the right side at the bottom of the apron (this is like a deep pocket across the bottom.) Then stitch vertically from top edge to bottom of this pocket so that you have narrow slots to hold crayons. I like to stitch the child's name across the center of the apron with contrasting thread on my machine. Give the apron alone or fill the pockets with the crayons and accompany the apron with a new color book.

DISPLAY YOUR GREETING CARDS GLAMOROUSLY by scotch taping them to a folding screen. Make a scrolltype banner to put across the top with this inscription "FROM YOUR HOUSE TO OURS". (Try writing this with a tiny paint brush dipped in glue and then sprinkle with one of the metallic glitter powders—real holiday sparkle!)

Or, if you have some of the old-fashioned gilded picture frames stored away, bring them out, give them a new gilding job and a cream colored paper or cardboard mat. As the cards come in, tape them to the mat and PRESTO! you can hang your greeting cards on the wall (the entrance hall would be nice) where all can see and admire.

GOLD AND SILVER LACE DOILIES make lovely mats to mount on cardboard disks behind some of your madonna figurines or other Christmas arrangements. Try a large gold one back of some gilded hedgeballs and evergreen tips!

SHOW OFF A LARGE FAT WHITE CANDLE by making a glamorous fan from cellophane drinking straws to stand behind the candle (far enough from candle so there will not be danger of fire!) Or use one of the large



Last Christmas Juliana decorated this birdcage where Nicholas the First was supposed to live. She made ruffles of aluminum foil, fringed them and glued them on. Balls are anchored with molding clay.

foil doilies as mentioned above to make a pleated fan. Scotch tape will hold the folded end together and you can place it on a small needlepoint holder to make it stand upright. Conceal the holder with greens.

LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS GREENS to use about the house? Purchase a small tree and debranch it, if you do not have your own trees to provide the branches you want.

CHRISTMAS POTTED PLANT might be the name for this decoration. Fill a flowerpot with sand and into it place nicely shaped evergreen branches to form a "plant". Fasten small tree ornaments on it for the blossoms. Cover the pot with aluminum foil. One of these, with a small gift also tied on the plant, would be a pretty gift for a shut-in.

CHRISTMAS AT YOUR HOUSE

By
Mildred Cathcart

During the holiday season our friends and relatives drop in to say "Merry Christmas", and the decorating that we've done goes a long way towards creating a festive atmosphere.

One of the most striking centerpieces I've seen in recent years was fashioned of evergreens sprayed with silver paint and covered with artificial snow. These branches were placed on a mirror in the center of the table and piled high with silver and blue Christmas tree balls. At either end burned tall white tapers.

Probably less artistic, but more appealing to children, is a sleigh and reindeer prancing across the table. The sleigh is made of a small box with the sleigh sides cut from cardboard and glued to the box. Pile cotton and snow around it. Reindeer candles are very attractive, but if you don't have them the children can cut deer from heavy cardboard, color them brown, and use brown cord for harness.

For combined place cards or favors, if you're entertaining at Christmas time, perhaps these ideas will be helpful.

Make individual trees from pine cones painted green and fastened to a tiny block of wood. Small gum drops can be tied to the branches with

colored thread. Individual candles are held in place by using three candy canes (curved handle portion down) for the holders. Tie the candle in the center of these cane holders.

Very colorful and simple place cards are made by sticking a sprig of evergreen into a marshmallow base.

Children always like stocking nut cups. Cut the stocking from red construction paper and glue the sides or stitch with yarn. Fill with small hard candies, but let a candy cane extend from the top.

Little pine cone figures can be made by using a cone body, pipe stem cleaners for arms and legs, and a marshmallow head; cloves and red hots can be used for the eyes, nose and mouth.

This year when you make popcorn balls, tint the syrup pale green and use a few red hots in each ball for additional color. Your large nut bowl will also take on an exciting air if you wrap the nuts in gold paper or aluminum foil, and scatter a few bits of evergreen among them. (Children dearly love to wrap nuts in this way—a good rainy day occupation.)

CHRISTMAS OUT OF NOTHING!

Last year we had a series of family catastrophes that left us with staggering medical bills, so we had to find Christmas gifts that cost almost nothing and yet filled the youngster's wishes.

For our little girl we made a doll house from two and a half orange crates. We managed five rooms and really had a lot of fun papering the walls and making scrap bag drapes, curtains and rugs. In the months after Christmas she had as much fun with this doll house as she could have had from the big, expensive commercial toys.

Another orange crate served as a store. We saved all kinds of things to stock it, and she had a grand time with the spice boxes, salt boxes, cheese and butter cartons, etc.

Another gift that made a big hit was a large box that contained an old long dress of mine, a hat, high-heeled shoes and a collection of discarded costume jewelry.

I turned to "Ye Olde Scrap Bag" again to find material enough for a doll wardrobe. Little girls under six don't really seem to feel badly about not getting a new doll if the old one has a collection of new clothes.

Indian costumes can run into money, so we used a gunny sack and cut out a neck and arms. I trimmed it with colored yarn and buttons, and made Indian war bonnets for her and for her brothers by sewing dyed chicken feathers to strips of cloth.

A bird house and scrapbook with pictures and stories of birds pleased my boys who are enthusiastic about the subject, and they also enjoyed a ring toss game that we made by putting pegs six inches apart in a good-sized board. Rubber jar rings went with it.

You can spend a lot of money on toys, if you have it, but if you can't go gaily out to do your shopping, dust off your ingenuity and have a merry Christmas—perhaps the merriest!—L. S.



RUTH SHAMBAUGH WATKINS WRITES FROM GREENWICH, CONN.

Dear Aunt Leanna:

The baby is taking her long afternoon nap, and the girls are outdoors playing in the rain, so I'm making the most of these peaceful moments by catching up on long lost letters!

Last year, living in an apartment, a rainy day like this meant mild havoc from morning till bedtime. The girls would up-end every drawer, cabinet and closet, which kept them well amused, but not their mother!

Now that we have our house, with all the wonderful land around it, a rainy day means fun for all. If it falls on a week-end, (and any man who commutes to work in Manhattan will tell you that it *always* rains on Saturday and Sunday!) we kindle a fire in the fireplace and pop corn and listen to the patter on our flat roof and count our blessings, while the girls pounce through puddles and make mud pies under the drain spouts.

We were pretty tired of rain, though, last spring. The construction on our house was held up for weeks in March because the ground was never dry enough to dig the foundations properly. Three times they were so badly flooded they had to be dug over again, and we were so anxious to get out of the apartment. It was all very discouraging.

But Connecticut has made up for that damp spring by giving us the most beautiful autumn anyone could wish for. In Heidi's honor, I'm sure! She is such a good baby, just sleeps and eats and grows and becomes more precious with every day that passes.

We spent many happy days at the beach this summer. The picture that I'm enclosing of Wendy and Jennifer shows them there. It's a fifteen minute drive from here. But our best suntans came during the clear dry days of early September, just playing in our own front yard.

But, after all, it was the lush timberlands and fertile meadows that drew us to Connecticut, and it's the rain that keeps them green!

Our own land looks so black and rich that I'm sure we can raise a good garden next summer, in spite of the typical crop of New England rocks spattered through it. I can hardly wait to start planting all those bulbs you sent! I've always dreamed of a place where daffodils could naturalize and "spill their sunshine down the hill", and now I have it. Oh my! I wish Mother were still here with her green thumb.

Wendy planted some gourd seeds this summer and she really reaped a harvest of the funny little fellows. Some are green and yellow, some plain white (she calls these "spook gourds") and some are covered with



Wendy and Jennifer Watkins at the beach.

bumps like warty old toads. Grandmother showed the girls how to shellac them, and now the big basketful of gourds is a favorite plaything.

The girls are having so much fun getting acquainted with their new home and rediscovering the glories of the out-of-doors that I could see no reason for trundling Wendy off to school. Children can start to kindergarten here if their fifth birthday comes before January 31, which would make Wendy eligible by about three weeks. But she would have a five mile bus ride into town, and a new grade school is underway, just two and a half miles from us, which will be ready by next September. It's such an interesting modern structure that Wendy is quite excited over the prospect of starting there. Even Jennifer calls it "my school" when we drive by on the way to town.

Another reason I waited to send Wendy is because she enjoys the baby so much. She holds her so very carefully, "because Heidi doesn't know how to keep her head on yet, Mommie." Jennifer tends to all the practical details like fetching blankets and diapers and seeing that Heidi's feet are well covered.

Jennifer, or Jennie as we call her, is the family clown, you know. She seems to be especially apt at putting on performances for us after supper, and right now her favorite act is to disappear for a few minutes, then come back to the living room wearing her daddy's shoes, or a dress of mine, or maybe something of Wendy's, and saying, "What's me?" Then we guess who she is. Last night she came in on all fours with one of the baby's dumbbell-shaped rattles in her mouth and a belt around her neck, and "What's me?" turned out to be one of the neighbor's dogs, a huge beast with the unlikely name of Cocoa.

Cocoa's presence has been a problem since the first day we moved in. He's a good-natured brute, but so huge that he must look like a dinosaur when he runs up to lick the girl's faces. He terrifies them, and they won't stay outdoors a minute if they hear a dog barking up the road. We hope to solve this problem by giving them their own monstrous dog,—puppy size—for Christmas. Probably a collie. I hope it works! I'm tired of walking up to get the mail, having Cocoa ap-

pear on the scene, and struggling back home with two small girls perched halfway up me and the letters between my teeth!

It's time to bake a batch of cookies so Bob can have some warm with a mug of milk when he comes home. October and molasses just seem to go together, I've always thought, and what is either one without a liberal sprinkling of ginger? So my cookie jar this month has seen lots of dark brown cookies, crinkly on top and spicy in the middle.

Mother made lots of blueberry and grape jelly while she was here, and put up many jars of pickles. We miss her homemade bread, too!

And now small Heidi is telling me it's time to give her a snack. So the cookies will just have to wait a bit. Really, though, this new daughter fits into the family schedule so well that we've decided third time's a charm, sure enough! I'm sure I'm not as busy with all three of them as I was with my first one!

But busy enough, at that!

Love, Ruth

CHRISTMAS IN A NEW HOME

A house has Christmas customs, too, And leaving them is hard to do.

Our old chandeliers held mistletoe; On this bare, modern ceiling—where can it go?

Take, for instance, the window-seat—Outmoded, but, also, hard to beat For presents around a green spruce tree.

(Which doesn't look right, on the floor, to me.)

And, another thing: we fell for that line

That "You get along with no dining-room, fine!"

Architects say it is used the least—But the family meets here for the Christmas feast!

Christmas cards used to stand on our old book-shelves—

We have changed our house; must we change ourselves?

—Alta Carson

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A PARTY PLAN FOR DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

By
Lynda Schlomann

There's no doubt about it—youngsters who arrive in the last week of December present a genuine birthday party problem for their mothers! Any event that falls immediately after Christmas seems almost like an anticlimax, yet birthdays must be celebrated and our biggest consolation is the fact that children don't "wear out" their holiday spirit as quickly as adults.

Your house will already be decorated, of course, so the only additional thing to provide is an untrimmed tree. Although I had the late December child in mind when I wrote this, I must point out that these plans are suitable for any youngster whose birthday falls after the middle of the month.

Children enjoy invitations so much that it's worth the time and effort to make some. Use correspondence cards and sketch a row of poinsettias around the edge with water colors, or use colorful Christmas stickers in one corner. Write the invitations as follows:

Santa bids me tell you all,
Don't forget this special day
When he'll be at _____'s house
With his pack so bright and gay.

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____

Decorate your living room with red cardboard poinsettias or white construction paper snowmen; string these on wire across the room. (It seems almost needless to point out that if the family joins in working on these in the evenings before the party, the actual party itself cannot hold greater pleasure for the child.) Place an untrimmed tree in one corner—the climax of the party comes when the children join in decorating it.

To break the ice and get the children started, have the game called FEATHER FUN. This is an indoor race that doesn't take a lot of room or break anything.

Give each player a plate with five feathers on it. At a signal the players carry the plates across the room without touching the feathers. If they flutter off, the player must stop, pick them up and put them back on the plate. The first one to reach the finish line with all five feathers on it is the winner.

BOXING MATCH: Two guests are chosen for this game. Tie ten inflated balloons (red and green) to their left wrists. Each balloon is tied with a cord 18 inches long. The object of this game is to break the other's balloons with your right hand. Award a prize (another balloon) to the person winning.

GUESSING GAMES: Have the children guess the following and award prizes that correspond.

1. How many kernels on this ear of corn? Prize—corn candy.
2. How many seeds are in this apple? Prize—a bright red apple.
3. How many beans are in this jar? Prize—a package of seeds.



PUT SANTA CLAUS TOGETHER:

This is a "quiet" game that is useful after hectic activity. (Its preparation is another family project, incidentally.) Use a pattern for a large Santa Claus and draw it on red construction paper. Let the children decorate him to their heart's content. Then cut each one into about eight or nine pieces, jig-saw style, and place in an envelope. Distribute the envelopes to the children and let them assemble Santa Claus. A candy cane would be a suitable prize for the first youngster to get his Santa together.

CHRISTMAS HUNT: Tell the little guests that hidden in the house are presents, and as each child finds one he must hang it on the tree. When all the presents have been found divide the children into groups. Each group is given something to do. One hangs the glass balls, one the silver tinsel or chains, while others tie on small red Christmas stockings filled with candy and nuts.

When the tree is all trimmed each stocking and gift are numbered and cards with corresponding number are passed around. As you call a number the child having that number goes to the tree and receives his gift. It isn't a big or expensive job to assemble these gifts. Small toys, pencils, crayolas, books, puzzles, etc., all make welcome presents.

If you plan on setting the table, use a white cloth with large disks cut from red construction paper for doilies under the plates; or use a red cloth with white disks. Place green and red candles on the table and for a centerpiece use a Santa made as follows:

Get a burned-out 1000 watt bulb from some store and punch out the end. Cover the outside with bright red enamel. When dry, partly fill bulb with sand so it stands easily. Glue on white buttons for eyes and coat buttons. Use a black cloth band or ribbon for the belt and copper wire for the buckle. Glue on a red button nose and use cotton for the hair, beard and eyebrows. Insert a stick in the top of the bulb so that it is held erect by the sand. Wrap red oilcloth around the stick to form a high stocking cap.

Set the finished Santa on a cake stand and place in the center of the table. Arrange greenery around the Santa and cake stand, and sprinkle cranberries on the greens for a touch of red. (The cake stand is not necessary, but it does give a higher arrangement.)

Favors can be chocolate Santa Claus figures, red or white candy canes, snowmen made from popcorn, or anything that fits your Santa decorations.

Keep your menu simple for children. I've found that ice cream in a Santa Claus mold, decorated Christmas cookies and hot chocolate just seem to hit the spot.

TO GIVE AWAY

By
Gladys Niece Templeton

What a great amount of thought goes into Christmas! It seems that never throughout the entire year are we completely free from mental planning—ideas and suggestions rain in from every hand.

To some, Christmas giving has become such a confused task of 'What-for-whom' that the joy is almost forgotten. And yet it is in that little word "joy" where the whole Christmas spirit lies. Few of us give thought to the perfect gift until the day is upon us.

Children are commonly heard to express their wishes. They are instructed to ASK Santa for their heart's desires, and perhaps this is misguided training for they are prone to ask when it would be better to train them to think of the pleasures they can give to those of lesser fortune.

It makes no difference how little one possesses . . . he can always find someone who is without. This idea is handled today by groups and organizations to the extent that the personal touch has been all but lost. These groups are doing splendid work and are to be commended, but this does not remove our responsibility; we are not freed from the close touch which spells CHRISTMAS.

Try calling at the home of a shut-in or in some home where your own personal interest will make a vast difference . . . spend a few minutes in this way and you shall be greatly refreshed. It will put the spirit of Christmas within you, and you will give the spirit of Christmas to the one on whom you have called.

This happy season can never become so commercialized that your personal touch ceases to be the golden gift

TO GIVE AWAY

BRING CHRISTMAS INTO YOUR FARM KITCHEN

By
Evelyn Witter

It seemed as if Christmas was everywhere on the farm except in the kitchen—the place where most of our time was spent.

Our evergreens near the barns wore a covering of new fallen snow. Packages and candles, a Christmas tree and holly wreaths gave the house a delightful Yuletide air. But the kitchen, like so many other kitchens I had seen at this time of the year, was left forgotten and unadorned.

It didn't take much time or money to dress the kitchen for the gay Christmas season, and the children and I had a lot of fun doing it. The results brought gaiety to the family and enthusiastic compliments from our neighbors and friends.

First of all we fringed the ends of tin cans with tin snips and hung them by cords in each window. The children pasted colorful seals on each one.

Then, the old-fashioned, broad windowsills easily accommodated branches of evergreens brought in from the timber.

(Continued on Next Page)

BOOKS . . . For Your Gift List

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For other Christmas gift suggestions, see our full column ad in the November issue of KITCHEN KLATTER, page 13.

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KIOA—DES MOINES, IA. — 940
on your dial 9:00 A.M.

(Continued from Page 13)

Last year's prettiest and brightest Christmas cards were cellophane taped, in Christmas tree pattern, on the cupboard doors.

For the first time Christmas had come into our kitchen. What a pleasant atmosphere our decorations created!

My husband summed it up very well, I think, when he first walked in and saw the result of the childrens' and my handiwork:

"This is more like it," he said, "The kitchen should be the cherriest place in the house at Christmas time considering all the hours we spend in it and all the goodies that come out of it. Strange, never realized it before but the kitchen has always looked like the old Scrooge of the house. Now it sings out as it should, 'Merry Christmas To All!'"



Dad and Wayne on a late summer day.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

We thank Thee for this place in which we dwell, for the love that unites us, for the peace accorded us this day, for the hope with which we expect the morrow, for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our life delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth.

Spare to us our friends . . . Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors. If it may not, give us strength to encounter that which is to come . . . and in all changes of fortune, down to the gates, loyal and loving one another.

—Robert L. Stevenson

This beautiful prayer came to us last year on a Christmas card from an old friend who lives far, far away. The front of the card was decorated with sprigs of holly and candles, and the prayer was printed on this page. On the inside were these few words:

Little Prayer
Go far and wide—
Bless all our friends
This Christmastide.

If you, too, feel a special need to reach across the years and greet old friends with a heartfelt message, why not make your own cards using these two quotations? We can assure you that through all of the months that have passed since last Christmas, that particular card has continued to warm our hearts and memories.—Lucile.

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.

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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.

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CROCHETED DAISY, pansy, rose doilies 10" \$1 each. Daisy, Rose doilies 14" \$1.75. Mrs. Frank Brabec, Brainard, Nebraska.

LOVELY CHRISTMAS GIFTS. Pheasant Feathers Corsages. Three flower cluster in each, \$1.50. Margaret Schulz, Vesper, Kansas.

APRONS \$1 postpaid. Large, Lovely, 1 piece bib-type percale. Large Potholders, 6 for \$1. Guaranteed. Order now for gifts. Mrs. Floyd Norris, Route 1, Forest City, Missouri.

WHITE HANKIES, Assorted Crocheted Edgings. Two linens \$1. Four cotton \$1. Two finer cotton wider edgings \$1. Will send immediately. Mrs. Ray Rau, Harlan, Ia.

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GUARANTEED: Little girls crocheted dresses, Booties, Bibs, Sacques, Helmets, Bonnets, Hosemending, Organdy Aprons. Beulah's, Box 112C, Cairo, Nebraska.

FOR SALE: Home woven rugs. Stamp for reply. E. Peterson, 705 So. 21 St., Lincoln, Nebraska.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS. Beautiful hand made genuine sea shell pin and earring sets. Choice of color. \$2 set postpaid. Mrs. James Karaidos, 2501 W. Euclid, Des Moines, Iowa.

GIFT APRONS hanky trimmed white organdy \$1.75. Kitchen Prints \$1.25, postpaid. Zorah Graham, 1721 North 61, Omaha, Nebraska.

FOR SALE: Black walnut meats \$1.25 a pint. Mrs. Chris Rasmussen, 2019 So. 6th St., Harlan, Iowa.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Lovely Rose Doily. Eleven pink roses edged in variegated green on a pure white background. Eleven inches diameter. On hand. \$2 postpaid. A. J. Eltgroth, Carroll, Iowa.

BEAUTIFUL WHITE HEIRLOOM CENTER PIECE 42" in diameter \$10. Blanche Cooley, Queen City, Missouri.

PHOTOSTAMPS made from any size clear photo, snapshot, negative with gummed back. Stamp size 3/4" x 1", 100 to sheet or 50 large size 1" x 1 1/2", \$1.50. Your photo returned unharmed. Zelda Hatch, Melbourne, Iowa.

HAND QUILTED crib quilts \$10 and \$12. Feed Sack pillowcases fancy design \$1.25. Other pillowcases \$2.25. Gladys Dittmer, Lacona, Iowa.

HEALTH REDUCING BOOK — by retired nurse. Practical easy to follow schedule and suggestions for overweight. Bloat, food charts, how to avoid the arthritis "flare up." Price 40¢. Mrs. Walt Pitzer, Shell Rock, Iowa.

LOVELY "THREE ROSES" or "BOUQUET PERFUME." Purse size—Christmas Special only 60¢—or two for \$1.00 tax paid. Kucirek's, 1507 So. 58 Street, Omaha 6, Nebr.

EMBROIDERED PILLOW CASES 42" \$3.00. Tea towels 7—\$3.70. Aprons, clothes pin aprons, and bags \$1.00 each. Mrs. Ray Dixon, Allerton, Iowa.

ROIGINA AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD — In capsule form—promotes blooming, growth, and better color—54 capsules \$1.00 prepaid. Corlee Ribbons, Box 308, Lincoln, Nebr.

GAY NOVELTY GIFT APRONS. \$1.25 postpaid. Ada Higbee, Bloomfield, Iowa.

BEAUTIFUL WHITE LINEN HANKIES with tatted corner and edge. Any color \$1.00 postpaid. Immediate delivery. Mrs. Earl Prall, Mount Sterling, Iowa.

RICK RACK CORSAGES \$1.00; 6 for \$4.50. Another prize winning half apron, pretty keyhole pocket, ruffle and ribbon trim. Many others, trimmed just right. Print or organdy \$1.25. Kathleen Yates, Queen City, Missouri.

NO COMMON RAG DOLL this! A Stuffed, soft cuddly doll nearly 19 inches long fully dressed in colorful dainty with crocheted hat; lovely under clothes and cute expressions, \$3.95 postpaid. No C.O.D.'s. Lutie B. Cateron, 6005 Florence Blvd., Omaha, Nebraska.

BEAUTIFUL 11" Irish Rose Doilies. White center, pink roses, green leaves, \$2.00. 13" Ruffled Doilies \$2.00. Dorothy Briney, Liscomb, Iowa.

14 PINEAPPLE DOILIES WITH FANS, \$1.00. Edith Kenyon, Friend, Nebraska.

FOR COFFEE TABLES: Leaves, pictures, pressed pansies, colored feather designs, cat tail mats, corn shuck flowers. Replica 50 yr. shakers. Mrs. Glen Cooper, Carson, Ia.

SPECIAL Larger Nylon Corsages \$1.00, 6 for \$5.00. Nylon Brooch 50¢, Earrings 50¢. Immediate Delivery. No orders less than \$1. Hazel Dorrell, Winterset, Iowa.

WANTED SEWING. House dresses \$1.25. Children's 75¢. Mrs. Frank Vance, Rt. 3, Paris, Missouri.

LOVEBIRDS CHAIR set \$3.00. Pineapple doily 15" \$1, surprise package \$3. Past ads good. Emma Jackson, Box 66, Harwood, Missouri.

REDUCED PRICES: New nationally advertised mdse, send stamped envelope for free information. J. B. Vaira, Ainsworth, Ia.

RAINBOW INDIAN CORN—Decorate for the Holiday Season with several ears of colorful Indian Corn. Assorted colors—red, Blue, White, Yellow, Purple, Brown (our choice of colors but all ears different.) 15¢ an ear. Minimum order 4 ears. R. L. Delk, Weldon, Iowa.

ADORABLE hand crocheted loopy baby booties, dolls and dogs, \$1 each; three piece baby sets \$4; booties 75¢; organdy half aprons \$1.50. State color. Bernice Page, 718 1/2 Story St., Boone, Iowa.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS! Mammy Doll, toaster cover 16" tall, earrings, apron and cute, \$2.50. Chenille dolls—7 1/2" tall, moveable eyes, arms and legs. Pretty hair. Choice of color—beautiful gift \$2.00. Aprons, organdy with handkerchief trim—dainty. Choice of pastel colors \$1.50. Christmas wreath for your outside door or window, evergreen, red holly and ribbon bow, 12" in diameter \$1.50. Aprons, white dotted swiss, sunbonnet pockets trimmed with ribbon—new \$1.65. Novelty Shop, Ulysses, Nebraska.

PHONOGRAPH RECORDS. Latest hits, 45 and 78 RPM. 4 for \$1. Slightly used. Send for free list. Maureen Loots, Carroll, Iowa.

GIFT HALF APRONS, small 75¢, medium, large \$1. Orders taken for other styles. State color. Mrs. Ray Oliver, Wellsville, Missouri.

RAGGEDY ANN AND RAGGEDY ANDY. 19" dolls, \$3.50 each. Mrs. Sanford Anderson, Oakland, Nebraska.

DANDY CLOTHESPIN APRONS for Christmas. Send 75¢ or 50¢ and feed sack or material. Mrs. Peggy Kleiner, 5711 West 10th, Topeka, Kansas.

CHILDREN'S KEEP-SAKE BOOKS. The Lord's Prayer and Hear our Prayers. Beautifully illustrated. Your child's name GOLD IMPRINTED on flyleaf. Two Books, \$1. Bernice's Gifts, Madrid, Iowa.

SOUVENIR HANKIES from the Ozarks. Nice tatted trimmed 50¢. Fancy trimmed \$1. State color wanted. Mrs. Fannie Kendrick, 1419-W-Brower, Springfield, Missouri.

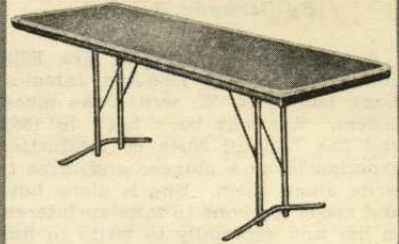
SMOCKED DRESSES, size 1, \$3; Party Aprons \$1. Mrs. Donald Duvall, Audubon, Iowa.

APPLIQUED part linen tea towels—"Calorie Motifs" or "Favorite Foods", set of 7, \$5.95. R. Kiehl, 2917 Fourth NW, Canton, Ohio.

PRESS ON DESIGNS, 40 assorted \$1. Rick rack earrings 49¢ pair. Ribbon or wood-fibre corsages 59¢. Organdy or print half aprons \$1.25, postpaid. Ber-Le, Box 153, Creston, Iowa.

PURE BREED TOULOUS GEESSE. Blood tested stock \$5.50 each, trio \$15. Clarence Dressman, Baileyville, Kansas.

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PRETTY PRINT HALF APRONS, 85¢ postpaid. Winifred Peterson, Alton, Kansas.

SPECIAL SALE! Rickrack earrings. Rhinestone centers. All colors, 35¢ pair, 3 pair \$1. 7 inch yarn dolls. Crocheted clothes. All colors, 75¢. Clara Jackson, Mendon, Missouri.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

By Gertrude Hayzlett

A woman whom I know, Mrs. Elizabeth Percival, 162-1186 Ave., Jamaica, Long Island, N. Y., writes the nicest letters. She was born back in 1862, and has had all sorts of interesting experiences as a pioneer and loves to write about them. She is alone now, and needs someone to take an interest in her and especially to write to her. Will you do it? She likes mystery stories, too.

Mrs. Mary Ferris has a broken hip and is in a wheel chair. She is nearly 80, unable to write at all, but loves to get mail. None of her relatives live in the community. Her address is Ideal Nursing Home, 1001 Harrison St., Topeka, Kans.

Mrs. Gertrude Nutting, Shady Lane Rest Home, Wadena, Minn., is 69. She had a stroke and then fell and broke her hip, so she is in bed or in a wheel chair all the time now. She would appreciate mail, although she is not able to use her hands enough to write.

Mrs. Blanche Loveless, 2304 Alameda Ave., Alameda, Calif., a former Iowan whom many of you will know, has been in a hospital for many weeks but writes that she was able to be moved to her home recently. Her daughter is with her to care for her. She loves to get letters, and can probably answer sooner or later.

Mrs. Winifred Koppes, Hanover, Kansas, has been in a hospital most of the time since last May and will have to stay there for some time yet. She has been shut in a long time. She does beautiful crochet work when she is well enough. Do write to her.

Mrs. Jennie Keas, 714 W. Pikes Peak, Colorado Springs, Colo., would like print quilt pieces. She is a shut-in. By the way, I have had several requests for quilt pieces lately. If you have some you want to give away, ask me for a Guide with names of those who want them. My address is Gertrude Hayzlett, 685 Thayer Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif. The Guides give lots of news about shut-ins and how you can help them.

Miss Lena Curtis, Rt. 1, Caldwell, Texas, has been shut in 5 years. She is alone and seldom gets away from home, although she can go if someone takes her in a car. She is in her late fifties and needs cheery letters.

Mrs. Blanch Carlson, 117 First St. South, Marshall, Minn., would like to hear from you. She has been laid up since last February.

Miss Gretta Thomas, Box 593, Emmett, Idaho, has had polio twice and now has to spend her time in bed or in a wheel chair. She is about 35. She collects view cards, and although I think it doubtful if she could answer mail, why not send an envelope of view cards?

Mrs. C. H. Maxwell, Box 137, Epworth, Iowa, would enjoy mail. She has spinal arthritis and is not able to get out much, if any.

Mrs. Clara Lucadamo, 2963 Irving St., Denver 11, Colo., needs cheer. She moved to Denver on account of her health and is there alone until her husband can get their affairs straightened out in their former home.

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