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Dad, make this a Christmas the children will never forget. Give a gift they'll never tire of—their very own playroom. It's a welcome gift to Mother too, especially on bad weather days when children are forever under foot.

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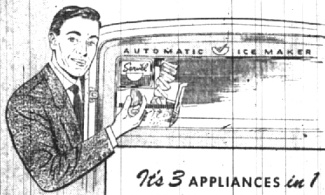


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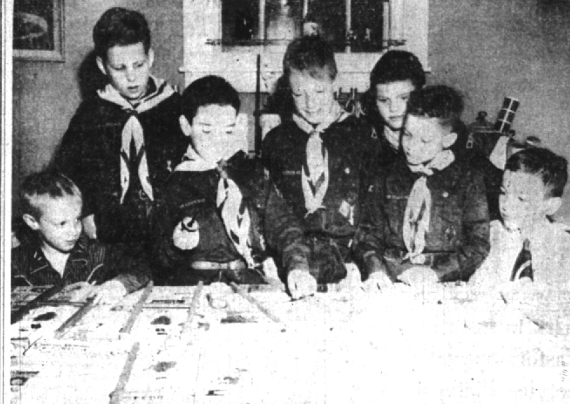
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See Them Today!

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MEMBERS OF DEN SIX, Pack B-3, are spending their out-of-school hours this month busily making Christmas gifts for the Oakland County Children's Aid Society and their parents. Believed to be the first gift-making project of the Cubs for orphan children, the boys hope to make it an annual job. Shown here putting the final touches on their wooden clowns are, from left to right, Steve Dwelley, Bob Kner, Don McGaffey, Jud Dwelley, Jim Pope, Fred Hoffman and Skip Schwimmer. The boys also completed decorations for the pack's Christmas program held on Monday night this week. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

DOWN TO EARTH

More Suggestions For A Gay Holiday

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The woman is rare who, at Christmas time, doesn't succumb to the purchase of some unusual, well designed holiday decoration. This may be a wistful Madonna, unusually tree trimmings, or decorative candles.

After a collection over many years these precious items comprise the magnetic power "Mother" possesses to make the holiday period her time to reign as queen.

Last week I gave you many ideas for holiday decorations. Here are some you may wish to have to try in the future.

Secure a large piece of poster-board to use as "picture" over your fireplace. Now have the small children of your household write a letter to Santa in their own handwriting, telling him their wishes. Some evening before Christmas, after the children are in bed, take some of the writing with a fine line of glue. Then, using colored yarn, follow their message gluing yarn to board.

Around the frame of the card-board you can let your imagination go unlimited with evergreen boughs, bright balls, and tinsel. Now you have a personalized Christmas motif which is truly a family affair over your fireplace. It is also fun to have rainbow flames burning in your fireplace. For material you use old cones or small pieces of kindling.

THESE CHEMICALS will give various colors, using a pound to a gallon of water. Do not mix in a metal bucket, however. Barium nitrate will give blue effect; strontium nitrate, red; calcium chloride, orange; potassium permanganate, purple.

Place the fuel to be dyed in a mesh bag, such as vegetables come in and let it soak for 15 minutes. Spread them out on newspaper to dry and bottle the unused chemicals to use another time.

Even though you may be having a small gathering for the Christmas dinner be sure and make it a party with homemade name cards. You will find folded white recipe cards, plus scotch tape, evergreen tips and small tree balls will provide a beginning for ideas from which you can "hatch" many of your own.

AT THIS TIME we enjoy introducing colored linens to give a festive air. I have had good luck tinting white damask tablecloths. The pattern in the damask weave is beautiful.

Here is an old chemist you may have forgotten. Take a brandy snifter and attach in the bottom of the inside, a small motif such as a Santa. Now fill it with water. Just before you call the guests for dinner add a few moth balls and then pour in 1/2 teaspoon of citric acid and a generous pinch of baking soda. Santa will then find himself in a snowstorm.

You may fireproof table greens by dipping them in a solution of nine parts water glass (soluble sodium silicate) to one part of water. Add a little solvent household soap to give the mixture "body". After the large dinner, all ages will enjoy a game of "adverbs" given by the National Farm and Garden club at the Community House one lover of African violets made an exquisite arrangement by grouping many specimen plants, in flower, within a brandy snifter and then placed tree balls of the color of the flowers within the snifter to give a real gay effect.

At the same show one exhibitor

as it is teeming with visual aids and charts so you can't help but place the plants in the right place. It shows you how to make garden ideas, too.

"AFRICAN VIOLETS", by Helen Wilson, is a fine illustrated book for the person who wants to experiment with violets and get good results.

"Picture Primer of Dooryard Gardening", by Goldsmith, tells how to add color around a door and has a real contemporary collection of gardening. It is written for the new gardener and has many colored pictures.

"Flower Arrangement For All Occasions", by Marie Fort, has generous illustrations for the woman who takes a great deal of pride in the display of flower material in her home.

Some of you will be buying books relating to gardening for gifts and here are the names of some you may wish to consider: "10,000 Garden Questions", by Rockwell, would be one I would want to own if I had only one garden book on my shelf.

"The Complete Book of Garden Magic", by Roy Hiles, is a book that has definite masculine appeal.

Smile A Minute

There had been a rear-end collision. One of the drivers climbed out in a fit of temper and strode up to a man standing on the sidewalk, thinking him to be the other driver. "Say, where's your tail light?" he roared. The innocent bystander looked up at him, "What do you think I am a blooming lightning bug?"

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