

Hand Fired Heat Unit Is 'Special'

There may be a number of reasons why a furnace backfires smoke but improper firing is probably the most important.

Before adding fuel to the fire, make the live coals high enough that the fresh fuel will not fully cover them. Leave a "red spot" or a "bright spot". Oxygen enters the firepot through the feeder door, or through the damper in the door. The "red spot" will ignite the gas which forms when fuel is added. If this gas is kept burned off you will get very little smoke from your chimney.

IN FIRING at night, to last until the next morning, wait until the fire is burning well. Then close the ashpit damper and partly close the turn damper. Leave the over-draft party open.

You will have to do some experimenting until you have found out how much draft to use in your furnace.

Use a good grade of coal. Have your furnace cleaned and choked annually, including the smoke pipe and chimney.

PLAY IT SAFE! You have your car serviced regularly, why not your heating plant? Your life may depend upon it.

Above all, do not store ashes in wooden or combustible containers or hang hot poker or tongs on wooden partitions.

Prepared as a public service by members of the Birmingham Fire Dept.

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WILSON DRUG

WOODWARD at MAPLE

DOWN TO EARTH Home Decorations Accent Christmas

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

This time of year many of us "lean toward the exit" as you have a long list of accomplishments to be done in a short period of time, before December 25th.

For the first time many will be purchasing holders for their Christmas trees. Be sure and select a style which will allow for the base of the tree to rest in water. Often you can place a small bowl filled with water under the gadget for the tree.

If you soak your tree for several hours in a bucket of water with three cups of sugar in it, the tree will be tamer.

Evergreen branches are an important part of home decorations for the holidays and I will have to admit that I don't enjoy pruning our evergreens until this time of year so I can use the fresh cuttings.

Cut branches on an angle and if you buy a bundle you might like to tear cut them to assure an angle cut. Now take a knife and scrape the bark back for a couple inches to insure a better intake of water.

IT IS USUALLY mother who sets the tempo and traditions for the family to enjoy for this momentous time of the year.

Upon her rests the responsibility of making home a center of magnetic activity so that the children will have a pattern for years to come.

Here are some "mama ideas" which you might like to try: Secure a loaf of French bread with its hard crust and use it for the base when making a table arrangement of greens. The moisture within the bread will keep the arrangement in prime condition as long as you want to keep it.

One of the nicest I have seen was a gathering of greens with a gold painted horseshoe and accompanying gold accents.

It is fun, when you have children, to maintain the occasion with roof accents. Figures can be made by using tubes of chicken wire as parts of the body and dress the figure with old sweaters and play suits. I have seen them "coasting" down the roof on a sled filled with packages. The whole scene spotlighted is a treat for motorists driving past at night.

HEAVY METALLIC paper provides an excellent beginning for a terrapin which can be filled with gay Christmas balls. If you use it as a centerpiece with candles the effect is outstanding for very little effort.

Another family activity for around the card table can be the making of "glitter eggs". Poke a tiny hole in the large end of an egg, shake out the contents. Make a design on the shell and outline the design with household cement. Now slip the egg in different colors of glitter. You can add sequins for extra trim.

At this date a few of you have many gourds around from the summer crop. When dry they can be painted with snow card paints. Labels placed on them will make you think you are looking at an Old World import.

IF YOU HAVE some white show card paint, empty some of it in a cereal dish, and apply to baby's breath and other winter-dried woods and flowers you might have in the garden. This white accent can give an unusual effect either for a large tree or a table arrangement.

With all of the gaiety and glitter of Christmas we should remember that it is a religious holiday and a table arrangement with the favorite Bible, a Madonna, and perhaps some candles can provide a setting keeping the spirit of our homes, families and friends as we carry on the priceless heritage of Christmas.

NEWS COPY submitted early is necessarily given preference, so the "early bird" usually gets the space.

BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS BRIEFS

Farrell To Name 4-H Club Winners

Winners in the two national 4-H Achievement Awards programs sponsored by Ford Tractor Division and Ford Motor Company will be honored December 2 at a Recognition Luncheon before the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, November 28 to December 3. Names of 22 national scholarship winners will be announced by Thomas A. Farrell, vice-president of Ford Motor Company and general manager of the Ford Tractor Division, who will be host at the luncheon.

Ford Tractor Division sponsors the National 4-H Poultry program, and Ford Motor Company sponsors the National 4-H Achievement program.

The 1,500 members at the Congress also will be entertained at a concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Sunday evening, November 28, sponsored by Ford.

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