

### Christmas Tree's End Need Not Be An Alley Discard

The Christmas tree is rapidly nearing the end of its reign of glory. Many now are, all too shortly, to see their discarded, useless.

It's a sad plight for an inanimate object which has meant so much and, for a few brief days, brought so much joy into the lives of so many people.

Mrs. Delwin M. Campbell, in a poem she wrote some time ago had this to say of the Christmas tree's reign:

Then on Christmas day you stood  
Like a knight of old,  
Glistening with armour bright,  
Golden o'er with gold.

But now that Christmas is past  
What, now of the Christmas tree?

ONE SAD plight is described by Mrs. Campbell's poem as she pictures the tree bestraggled, shorn of its brilliance, crushed and trampled by the traffic of some back alley.

It's a sad fate, Mrs. Campbell declares, and in the final lines of her poem, asks for a more glorious end for the tree, saying:

Let it mingle with the clouds  
In a blaze of fire!

BURNING THE tree as soon as it is removed from the home is one way to save it from an ignominious end. There are other ways, some of which can give the discarded Christmas tree a longer time of service.

Many persons have adopted the custom of making the tree into the yard and setting it up there. Firmly attached to a fence, side of a building, or any post which might be found in the yard, the Christmas tree can become a "restaurant" and shelter for winter birds.

THE COMPACTNESS of its branches make it an ideal station for such foods as suet, apples, large pieces of bread or other foods at which birds may pick. The branches also afford the birds a place of shelter from cold winds as they feed. In the words of one bird-lover who has followed this custom for years, "What a greater service can a Christmas tree render than to give a measure of comfort to those tiny creatures which remain with us throughout the winter months?"

Hosts at Dance

St. Michael's Youth club will be host to the club from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic church and a post-Christmas dance on Jan. 8. Planned to run from 8 p.m. to midnight, the affair will be held in St. Michael's hall, 10 Mile and Code.

### DOWN TO EARTH

## File Decorative Ideas to Use Next Christmas

BY ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

This holiday time for, as we share hospitality and friendships, we see so many expressions of art that we wish we could compile them for an inspiration for the Christmas challenges of 1955.

Mrs. Seth Slawson arranged a table top which was exotic in its splendor with large bells made out of metallic household cleaners.

Clumped were from small pine cones. The designs were grouped around the base of a brass candle stick. Among evergreen boughs at the base of the blue candles were small blue balls to match it, massed like grapes.

Mrs. Mildred Hartsuff made an unusual arrangement appropriate for use near a fireplace of outside a front door.

Hartsuff took an old-fashioned watering can and in it made a line arrangement with pine, juniper and sprigs of berries.

Also present were Mr. and Mrs. Neil, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil E. Nickel, of Birmingham, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Pahl, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Say, Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Aten and Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Booth.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Mouse entertained approximately 170 guests at their annual Christmas open house at their Lane Pine home, Sunday, Dec. 19.

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Waldron and their son, James, arrived Thursday, Dec. 23, from Cleveland to spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Hoffman at 820 Jonathan lane.

Lynn Spedding entertained Bob Fields, Barbara Donnelly and Eric Heiberger at a supper party at her home Monday evening, Dec. 20. Following the supper the four young people attended Mrs. Florence Schold's Young's dancing party at Rosedale community house.

Lynn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Spedding of North Miller Way.

The Henry W. Moow home on Timberlake drive rang with the merry voices of young people as their combined families joined in Christmas Day festivities.

Guests included Mrs. Maudie, three brothers, Mr. and Mrs. George Rivard with their five children, Mr. and Mrs. Boydell Rivard and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rivard and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rivard and Mrs. Ada McGoop.

Also included were Mr. Moow's mother and his sister, Mrs. Anna Moow and Mrs. Cora Moow.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Spedding will entertain many friends during the Christmas holidays at their home on North Miller Way.

Mrs. J. R. Alexander made a clever arrangement of greens on a tea tray, appropriate in a hall-way. The accents were introduced by stringing popcorn and cranberries.

MRS. GEORGE CUTLER has a favorite picture she has painted of a tree with a red and white table beneath it. She has achieved the feeling of the colors in the picture appropriate for the holidays by using a black container with a quartz piece beside it. In the center she placed a pine tree with blue berries and pink carolers to complement the color of the rock.

The other day, I met Mrs. Holbert Andrew. She was going to try to preserve some fine flowers she had this season of the year by mixing one part borax and six parts corn meal. This mixture is placed in a shoe box and the prized flower is placed face down with one inch of the mixture. If some of the stem protrudes, sprinkle it with the preservative. Cover the box and

leave it in a dry place for three weeks.

At the Dec. 15 flower show at the Community House large white flowers had been treated in this way were used as an accent with evergreens.

MRS. W. W. PRICE on Devonshire road has a fine arrangement for over her fireplace. She has taken a large picture frame and painted it gold along with plywood background installed in the frame.

This year Mrs. Price tacked on decorative boughs on two opposite corners and had used strings of small balls for highlights.

The R. E. Hattensons on Beconsfield have a large square mirror as part of an architectural feature over their fireplace. Mrs. Hutchinson has achieved an unusual effect by attaching a thread vertically on each side of the mirror. On it she has hung blue and red balls at a measured distance from each other, each side of the mirror matching.

Now as they rest against the mirror their reflection makes the appearance of two beams. When families are burning on the mantel the total effect with the interplay of reflections is topsy.

AS YOU DRIVE around town I am sure you all say a mental

"thank you" to all who make their outdoor lighting a gift to be shared with all.

The Sawdies on Oakland drive have a long low ranch house with a great deal of New Orleans grill work. Along the horizontal line of the front of the house, peaking through the grill work, are strings of varied lights. Greens soften the effect. On the front porch is a handsome string of large white bells.

The nicest part of this lighted Christmas picture I saw through the large front window, two boys, in their sleepers ready for bed, were playing tag around the farm-

center, where the farmhouse entrance has a white background, varied color lights and at the door are the greens with the gay red bow.

The holidays here in Birmingham give us much, with good friends, but churches. The heart of our Birmingham community is the sanctuary in Shain Park where we have our municipal tree with its Manger.

Promote yourself before the holiday or you will visit the park to contemplate an intangible experience which will make you enter 1955 a finer person.

As you drive around you see many homes decorated with dignified elegance such as those with double front doors which use large, identical wreaths.

Coming across 11 Mile road near Evergreen you can't help but slow your car when you see the S. G. Boynton ranch home up on a hill.

THE HOST HAS lighted the stone wings on each side of the house with red floodlights. In the

Wednesday evening, Dec. 29 office associates of Spedding will be entertained at their annual Christmas party. This year on Dec. 30, many friends and neighbors of the Speddings will enjoy their holiday open house.

"AT HOME" PARTY

Many neighbors attended the "At Home" of the H. S. Aten on Quaker road on Thursday evening, Dec. 23. During the evening, carol singing was enjoyed by the group. Piano accompaniment was furnished by Betty Aten and Mrs. Worthing Stone.

Guests for the evening included Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Hallenbeck, Mr. and Mrs. Worthing Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Suchner, Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Jaekel, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Pahl and Mrs. W. A. Kleimert.

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