

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

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SECTION
B

DOWN TO EARTH

WNFGA Show Is Rich With Ideas

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

This year our fine flower arrangers of Birmingham Woman's branch of Woman's National Farm and Garden gave a two-day Christmas show at the Community House on December 3 and 4 for all of the town and their guests. Here are some ideas I gleaned for you to try out at your home.

Mrs. Robert Anderson has taken a woven round red mat and on it placed a white pine circle of needles. In the center two gold bells were adorned by a piece of holly and a red bow. This would be a beautiful detail to replace a picture on the wall or to place on your front door.

Mrs. F. G. Davis had made a large wreath of milk weed pods, placing the halves as leaves in the circle. The total effect was beige. Pink balls and a pink Christmas motif of balls placed as a ribbon completed the blue ribbon presentation. It can be used "for years," according to Peg.

THE STAGE of the auditorium is always the keynote of the show and Mrs. Marvin Kettie and Mrs. George Catter "rang the bell." Mrs. Robert Kettie sent over some of her fine evergreen trees from their farm and the banking of them provided fine texture. In the center of the back of the stage, spotlights, was a huge wreath of gold and silver over a tree. Carefully woven around it was a lush gold bow.

This wreath was tied with a huge bow of the same material, rich, glistening, huge green and brown magnolia leaves. I wish I could "whistle in the newspaper" so you would know what I thought of it. Orchids for the designers.

Mrs. F. A. McGuire had an old-fashioned lamp table with an old-fashioned lamp lighted. Magnolia leaves around the lamp base, plus a ticking clock and Christmas cards were on the table.

MRS. J. A. HUNTER made a stunning swag. On it she placed white sprayed gourds as bells and the tassels were small cones. A fresh effect.

Mrs. Hugh Backus received a blue ribbon for her holiday table on a green cloth (a green cloth is a fine investment as you can use it for so many seasons of the year). At one end was a tall brass candlestick holder with green candles. Brass accents were emphasized in the accessories.

Mrs. Walter Anderson decorated a mantel, using a huge gilt frame and a red velvet mat on which she imposed pieces of evergreen and gold angels. "Merry Christmas" was written on the background with strings of small gold balls. I bet I could bring that old frame down from the attic and do something with it. Maybe spray it with paint to make it look fresh.

MRS. A. E. EBERSOLE created a snow scene within a square black metal lantern with boxwood roping following the lines of the construction. A red bird was perched on top.

Mrs. C. E. Nickel created a scene with a white church. In the clouds above it was angel hair with tiny angels floating in it. The snow on the scene completed the motif.

Nick, are you an engineer? How do you get those clouds to float? Mrs. T. S. Layton presented a wreath of nuts. Needless to say, somebody had some fingers when that job was done, with all of the necessary drilling.

More description of the show will come to you next week.

Baldwin Library Is Prepared for Christmas Season

Good news for Christmas patrons at Baldwin public library. The reference desk is able to fill requests for Christmas greetings in a variety of foreign languages—including Russian and Japanese.

And the "Better Homes and Gardens" 1958 edition of "Christmas Ideas," just added to the library collection, contains suggestions even as to decorating one's bathroom for the holiday season.

The holidays have brought their share of human interest. From the woman who, poring through the books in the "Christmas Corner," hummed various tunes to herself as she attempted to locate a certain Christmas carol, to the patron searching for a forgotten title on wood refinishing which he needed to recall in order to shop for the book as a Christmas gift. The clue—it was a fairly expensive book.

FORTUNATELY, a check with the new 1958 "Subject Guide to Books in Print" solved his problem.

Traditionally, book loans decrease before Christmas, sometimes as much as one half, while John and Jane Birmingham make ready for the holidays. In the week between Christmas and New Year's, however, library business soars while college students finish term papers and prepare for semester exams.

According to Miss Jeanne Lloyd, librarian, the library will be open regular hours Christmas week, except for Dec. 24th, when it will close at noon. Regular hours will resume Dec. 26th, at 9:30 a.m.

Hinduism designates the social customs as well as religion of the majority of people in India.

Let Children Trim Own Tree For Holidays

The little hands which "help" to trim the family Christmas tree are often more of a hindrance than a help. But who can resist the enthusiasm of a small child at Christmas time?

A solution might be to let the children make their own "fairytale sugar-plum" tree, suggests Dor-

thy Russell, instructor in child development at Michigan State University.

First, pick a well-supported tree that the child can reach easily. You can add "snow" to the branches by spreading stiffly beaten egg whites on them, says Miss Russell.

FOR DECORATIONS, children can string doughnut-like candies on four-inch lengths of thin wire and fasten them in circles to hang on the tree.

They can also make "cinnamon chains" by pressing cinnamon candies to the sticky side of long strips of cellophane tape, adds Miss

Russell. These chains can then be strung from branch to branch. "Candy sticks" can be made by attaching one large gumdrop to one end of a colored toothpick and a smaller gumdrop or jellybean to the other end. These can be wired to the branches.

Candy canes, large and small, can also be hung on the branches—to add color now and to be eaten later.

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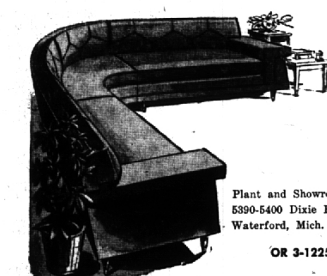


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