

Christmas Tree Decorations Can Be 'Frantic' Fun

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B'HAM ECCENTRIC
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The Christmas season is a joyous one. For the children, it is a toy-ous one. And the Christmas sentiment over both toys and joys is the bright, gaily-decorated Christmas tree. Birmingham families run the gamut of ingenuity and originality in this department.

TWO YEARS ago, Mrs. Russell Strickland, 1318 Country Club drive, Bloomfield Hills, bought a cross of bright balloons and spent hours carefully attaching them to the tree.

Another family bought several tall, thin trees and grouped them into a forest effect. They decorated the evergreens with scattered pieces of tinsel and sprinkled glitter on branch tips. They recommended using a rubber cement base or similar adhesive to keep the glitter from brushing off.

EVEN granulated soap can be used to create snow for nativity scenes. Often families with small children set up their manger in the fireplace to keep china figures safe.

For the newlywed couple living in an apartment, a small tree is the best decoration bet. A short chubby tree, topped from a larger evergreen, can be decorated with small imported-wooden figures and tiny blinking lights.

All one color ornaments and lights is a popular trend in tree decoration. Weird sounding color combinations often prove distinctive for the contemporary-minded family.

TO LEND a three-dimensional feeling, one resident mounted a tree outdoors in front of the picture window. A second tree, decorated with similar lights and ornaments, was set up inside the home. Reflections through the glass and continuity of decor will present a handsome picture, if precisely executed.

Often an unusual effect can be achieved by stringing lights around the tree, rather than on it. Although it is awkward to hang things from the ceiling, lights can be worked into a mobile or hung at scattered levels around the tree.

like the American hotdog, is best with "everything on it." Small children love to see their school artwork displayed and enjoy switching popcorn from strings strewn over the tree.

LOCAL florist and greenhouse people have suggested a few hints for preservation and safety of Christmas decorations.

Trees should be kept outside in the cold until just before decorating. It is best to mount it in a

water-holding stand. It saves much mess and confusion, when the preliminary carpentry work of the proof is done in a garage or yard.

A thin copper wire, wound around the trunk and secured in hidden corners, will minimize chances of unsteady trees tumbling from actions of excited youngsters.

SPRUCE and long needle pines hold needles longer than cedar or balsam. Small trees may benefit

from aspirin and sugar solution, but this is relatively ineffective on larger trees. Room temperatures should be low to prevent needle-dropping.

Yes, Christmas trees and decorations can be fun for the whole family. Except perhaps, for the father, who came home slightly decorated himself. He fell into the tree, slept there all night and work up the next morning muttering something about how awful it was to be lost in the woods!



"Hey Ma! I Want a Dinosaur!"

"Would you get a load of this?" one-year-old Nancy Sandra Englander seemed to be saying when she spied an eight-foot-long stuffed dinosaur in Jacobson's toy department at 275 N. Woodward. The huge dinosaur, a Steiff original made in Germany, is priced at \$200. Though the

dinosaur won't fit under a Christmas tree, he has some descendants who will. In two models, the smaller dinosaurs like the one atop the dinosaur in the picture, sell for \$14.95 apiece.

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