

Mrs. McConkie Shares Christmas Decor Ideas

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

If I wrote about anything but Christmas ideas today, you would probably turn to another article, as Christmas decorations should be on your mind.

Mrs. Paul McConkie on Lincoln invites to her home each year those who like to create unusual arrangements; this year there were 35 garden club women. Here are some of the ideas I gleaned to share with you:

A fine arrangement was made from the large size pine cones, first sprayed with white paint, then tipped with gold paint. This was the best treatment I had seen with large cones. On the work shelf was a wreath made from dried hydrangea flowers that had been sprayed gold. File this idea away.

ONE FINE arrangement was

made by taking an oblong piece of styrofoam. Next three fat red candles of varying heights were poked into the center area of the styrofoam. Dainty evergreen tips were stuck into the surface. These pieces were not over six inches long. Large groupings of cones were nestled in the grooves of the styrofoam. Mrs. Burlingame along with artificial fruit. Accents



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were achieved by using gold balls and some six-inch gold spears.

MRS. McCONKIE had taken a stunning dark green glass compote and placed a deep grape-colored chubby candle in the center. The space around the base of the candle was filled in with boxwood and holly cuttings. The accent around the base of the candle and on the fresh green cuttings was an array of artificial sugar-coated fruit.

ON ONE work table I saw a slab of wood and on it for a vertical line was secured a spath of a palm; complementing the line was a 12-inch white statue of St. Francis. Three different sizes of white mums completed the total effect.

For the doors of the two sons' bedrooms she makes a special arrangement each year. Take a piece of hardware cloth about the size of a dinner plate. In the center of the wire place some motif suggesting the holidays (bright balls, ribbons, etc.). Then in a pattern attach ping pong balls covered with silver foil. On another door there will be a pattern using feathery shuttles. You could vary

the gift trim depending on the age and interest of the child.

A LOVELY small table tree was formed by spraying a block of wood gold. A dowel was inserted to form a trunk with a styrofoam ball on the tip of the stick covered with small tips of arbutoviae which could be sheared. From that stage on, the tree trimming would be up to you, but don't overdo it.

MRS. McCONKIE had taken four funnels of various sizes, had sprayed them a shell pink with some silver sparkles sprinkled on them and then had formed a tree with the largest at the base. Within each funnel were frosted blue and pink balls and dainty greens filled in the voids. It was beautiful.

Ruby McConkie shares her enthusiasm for gardening and flower design 12 months of the year. She has good company on such a local roster. Lucky Birmingham.

Early copy for church activities makes it better for us and better for you. Don't wait until the deadline, please.

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ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Tall, Cool Christmas Present

The Charles F. Tanners, "just couldn't bare to cut down" their 20-year-old Norway Spruce, yet found that it would soon outgrow its quarters in their backyard at 1777 Sheffield. "It's going to be a tremendous tree," Mrs. Tanner said. It has already reached a height of 20 to 25 feet. The city said "thanks," and is contemplating getting the tree into Shain park before Christmas to replace the 60-foot Norway Spruce that had to be removed when the park was remodeled in 1958. "That is, if we don't run into any extreme problems in getting it out of its present tight corner," said Birmingham's chief forester Charles Gail. Mr. and Mrs. Tanner and son David take a long last look at their Christmas present to the city.

Fine in Bottle; It's Murder on Road

Every 24 hours 33 Americans die on the highway as a result of drinking and driving.

Every 30 hours in Michigan, one dies and 15 are injured in accidents involving a driver who had been drinking.

THESE ARE the known statistics on drinking drivers. They are considered to be the minimum indications of the problem posed by drinking and driving. They are minimum because of the inadequacies of reporting, the difficulties of identification and the problems of conviction involved in "drinking and driving" situations.

That is why the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police in their "Unwanted Driver" program are calling attention to the Drunkard as third on their list of problem drivers. The known record of the Drunkard in Michigan last year was 291 killed, 4,428 injured. The unknown record of the Drunkard may be ten times greater.

Fifteen thousand police posters devoted to the Drunkard went up today all over Michigan.

POLICE CHIEF Ralph W. Mosley, of Birmingham pointed out that the problem with the drinker is one of degree.

"We are not so concerned about the pie-eyed, saturated drunk as with the drinking driver" who has only had a few shots, a few bottles of beer. Reliable studies indicate that in at least 80 per cent of fatal traffic accidents, one or more drivers had been drinking."

"THE SO-CALLED drunks are fairly easy to spot," the chief pointed out. "It is the social drinker, the man or woman who has had only a few drinks and doesn't think it has had much effect, that is the real problem."

"Such a driver doesn't know that alcohol in any quantity begins to affect judgment, attitude, perception and reaction in traffic situations—even though his manipulative skill seems unimpaired."

That's why traffic safety authorities have named the drinking driver as the greatest menace on the highway.

A RECENT study at Northwestern university found the drinking driver is involved in serious accidents at four times the ratio of non-drinking drivers. Delaware and Montana report more than half of the fatal accidents in their states in 1956 involved a drinking driver.

Spot studies in Michigan, conducted by the secretary of state's office also indicate drinking drivers in half or more of the fatal traffic accidents.

Since the drinker, unlike the drunk driver, cannot easily be detected before he gets himself or others into trouble, the problem

My Neighbors



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