

Bountiful Harvest of Ideas for Thanksgiving Setting

By EVELINE OEN
Arts Editor

With Thanksgiving a week away, thought becomes visions of tables with turkeys, trimmings, family and friends.

Because of the special importance of the table setting on Thanksgiving day, members of the American Institute of Interior Designers who live or work in that area were asked for their suggestions on "trimmings."

Their answers covered everything from the decor and centerpiece to seating arrangements. This he-

who lives at 815 Southfield Road, Birmingham.

"You don't put crystal and roses in a contemporary home," he said.

"In our own family, we have the same things from year to year—a Victorian urn with grapes and raisins," Klingensmith said, explaining that they lived in a "fadily-duddy" house.

He felt "the largess of the fields" should be shown and suggested a centerpiece a wooden or basket tray with wheat and different fall fruits, gourds, squash. This he would set on a bare table with

line "fish net" placemats, brass and ironstone accessories.

"THE TABLE arrangement all boils down to where you put the turkey," decided Lewis Sappington of Franklin Interiors.

"Normally, the turkey is shoved in front of the host which jams the centerpiece into the center-piece and throws the whole arrangement off balance," he said.

The first solution to this problem offered by Sappington was to serve everything from a sideboard convenient to the host's chair.

HIS SECOND solution — for a

traditional setting — was to put the turkey at one end and an arrangement at the other with guests and family seated alongside (but not at either end). The host would sit at the left end and on one side and the hostess at the left end on the other side, the male guest of honor to the immediate right of the hostess, the female guest of honor at the host's immediate right, the second male guest of honor immediately across from the hostess, etc.

A variation of this could be to divide the food to be served evenly between the host and hostess and

place a centerpiece in the middle of the table.

HIS THIRD solution — for a contemporary setting — amounted to the second solution shifted one place to the left, an asymmetrically balanced arrangement.

At a round table, Sappington felt the turkey should also be given "a place of its own," this time between the host and hostess. He would put the turkey to the left of the host and the hostess to the left of the turkey.

GAY YANKEE of Ball of Wax, Inc., 378 E. Maple, Birmingham,

had many suggestions involving the use of candles.

"One was nestling "bird" candles in a pile of fresh fruit.

Another was to make a pyramid of fruit and "fruit" candles, using smaller, individual "fruit" candles at each place. (All the candles should be lighted, of course.)

Thanksgiving is a "homespun holiday," thinks Dale Doehr of 328 W. Brown, Birmingham.

HE PREFERS something in warmer colors—gold, orange and red, he said, with natural vegetables, fruits, nuts, etc., such as can

be found along the roadways of the area.

"If their hue be wrong, he said, you can color them in just a few seconds with a spray can of paint," said Doehr. "It's a marvelous way of achieving individuality quickly and easily."

With this he suggested using a gold burlap undercloth or some other natural material such as felt, linen and rough, homespun cottons.

"SINCE A Thanksgiving dinner necessitates many dishes on the table, with gravy and sauce and the like, the decoration should be

kept simple," said Jane McMillen, 1055 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

"I like a centerpiece with fruits and vegetables in colors that complement the China. To soften this arrangement, some pieces of dried wheat serving as green could be used with flowers. The gleam of candlelight on the centerpiece and on crystal lends a festive air," she said.

VALERIE STEVENS of Valerie Stevens Interiors, 243 E. Maple, Birmingham, suggested using an undercloth of goldenrod color — possibly felt for an informal setting and polished cotton for a more formal effect—with an overcloth of olive green netting caught up in festoon style at intervals around the table and fastened by button-rierces of golden baby mums.

"For a centerpiece to go with this, use the lower third of a fair-sized pumpkin, hollowed out, with a gently scalloped border to resemble a low bowl. This should be lined with gold foil paper and heaped with down-to-earth abundance to suit one's fancy," said Mrs. Stevens.

"If the table is large enough and candles are wanted, march a file of miniature turkey-gobbler candles around the centerpiece," she said.

ROBERT L. Stevenson of 735 E. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, said his family had a traditional setting — a white damask tablecloth with a picture of George Washington in the center and napkins which belonged to his parents and grandparents, a bowl of flowers, a candelabrum with several white candles with blue and white Spode dishes. The walls of the dining room are red, and the table setting scheme always red, white and blue in color.

Edward Crane, 3056 Rock Creek Drive, Southfield, suggested as an alternative to a cornucopia, a hollowed out pumpkin with an opening at the top used as a container for yellow and copper chrysanthemums and set on a radiating circle of wheat sprays or branches of colorful maple leaves.

ALL FELT that the arrangement should reflect the bountiful harvest, and it is hoped that some of their ideas bear fruit.



"THE CENTERPIECE sets the theme," said Milka Leonoff of 425 Hanna, Birmingham.

Instead of flowers, fruits and vegetables should be used in the centerpiece, she said, and the theme — or color — of the centerpiece carried out with the china and glassware.

As an example, she suggested an arrangement of fresh asparagus, artichokes and green peppers with green diabetes.

"THE SETTING and decoration depends on how you are going to entertain and what kind of home you have," said Roger L. Bracy of 1826 E. Maple, Birmingham.

He felt the nicest was a family table setting — sit down rather than buffet.

"If the family is large enough," said Bracy, "one could use individual tables coordinated through decoration."

Bracy felt the decoration should have "a nice earthy feeling," and suggested the use of fall flowers and leaves, soup tureens, platters and cornucopias.

The feeling should be festive, yet reflect that it is a time of thanksgiving, he said.

Decorating the table (or tables) should be a family project, Bracy emphasized. The enthusiasm of helping gives zest to the day for all and especially for the children, he said.

THE DECORATIVE style of the home (the dining room in particular) is a determining factor, according to Charles Klingensmith,

who lives at 26656 W. 14 Mile Road, Franklin. Swenson describes what they have done as follows: "We tried to be as informal and simple as possible to allow for the freedom of movement necessary for the passing of plates and food. The turkey would be placed somewhere other than on the table. To live up to the

setting, we have used a simple arrangement of bronze colored mums and heather which with a crystal and wrought iron candelabrum form two eccentric centerpieces. We have used handwoven textured, Swedish linen placemats; the napkins are rough-textured, natural linen. The beautiful surface of the table has been left exposed to complement the various textures and finishes of the tableware, place-

ments and accessories. All the background pieces are the earthy fall tones. Color has been achieved through the flowers and through the blue and off-white striped china. The glassware is Postoria crystal; the tableware and salt and pepper shakers, Gense stainless steel. The unusual bread basket and relish tray of waxed white pine are sturdy, but graceful, and have been functionally formed for passing."

Cultural Events

Nov. 15

TOWN HALL—Walter Slezak will talk on "Show Business is No Business" at the Birmingham Theater at 11 a.m.

MEET THE AUTHOR—"Meet the Author" day for Walter Slezak, Town Hall speaker and author of "What Time is the Next Swan?" at the Village Bookshelf, 750 N. Woodward, from 2 to 5 p.m.

TRAVELOG—William Moore presents "New Portraits of Paris and the Riviera" at Bloomfield Hills High School beginning at 8 p.m.—the first in a series of four travels sponsored by the Bloomfield Hills Lions Club.

BIRMINGHAM ART CENTER—Birmingham Society of Women Painters 18th annual exhibition at the Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham. The show will continue through Nov. 25. Hours are 2 to 3 p.m. daily except Mondays.

LITTLE GALLERY—"The Artist as a Printmaker" at the Little Gallery, 915 E. Maple, Birmingham. Will last until Dec. 8. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Sundays and Mondays.

BIRMINGHAM THEATER—"West Side Story." Academy Award winning film starring Rita Moreno, Richard Beymer and Natalie Wood with music by Leonard Bernstein.

BLOOMFIELD THEATER—Merleth Wilson's "Music Man," starring Robert Preston and Shirley Jones.

Nov. 16

VILLAGE PLAYERS—Opening of "Once Upon a Mattress," presented by the Birmingham Village Players at their Playhouse, 1752 Chestnut St., Birmingham, beginning at 9 p.m.

WILL-O-WAY—"Study in Color," original plays by the Rev. Malcolm Boyd at the Will-O-Way Theater, Long Lake Road (near Telegraph), Bloomfield Hills; at 8:30 p.m.

TOWN HALL—Walter Slezak will speak on "Show Business is No Business" at the Birmingham Theater at 11 a.m.

TRAVELOG—Maynard M. Miller presents "50,000 Miles Around the World," the first in a series of 10 travel lectures at the Community House beginning at 8 p.m.

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TRAVELOG—Maynard M. Miller presents "50,000 Miles Around the World," second night of the first in a series of 10 travel lectures at the Community House, 8 p.m.

NOV. 19

DUPLICATE BRIDGE—Duplicate Bridge at the Community House at 7:45 p.m. Open to the public.

Nov. 20

HUMAN RELATIONS WORKSHOP—Dr. Mel Ravitz, associate professor of sociology at Wayne State University and Detroit Councilman, speaks on "Changing Suburbia and Its Populations" at Northminster United Presbyterian Church, 3633 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, at 8 p.m. It is part of the Bloomfield Township Workshop on Human Relations.

CAMERA CLUB—Jack Petz, artist representative, will speak on "Art in Advertising Photography" at 8 p.m. at the Silver Wolf, 4100 N. Woodward, Royal Oak. Open to the public.

(SEE CULTURAL EVENTS, 4-D)

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN SECTION D

November 15, 1962

Paris, Africa, India On View in Travelogs

For those whose hearts are infected with wanderlust, there are three traveling series in the area—in Southfield, Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham.

A series sponsored by the Bloomfield Hills Lions Club begins tonight and one at the Community House Friday and Saturday evenings. A series sponsored by the Southfield department of parks and recreation began last week.

William Moore will present "New Portraits of Paris and the Riviera" at Bloomfield Hills High School

Last Day Nears On Applications For Opera Award

The last day to submit applications for the Detroit Grand Opera-Griener Foundation of Music Opera scholarship auditions is Tuesday.

The auditions also serve as the exclusive screening agency for the National Council of Metropolitan Opera regional auditions in Cleveland, Ohio.

An affidavit from a teacher or opera coach verifying the eligibility of the applicant must accompany application for audition.

SINGERS WHOSE applications will appear before a committee of local judges in preliminary auditions Dec. 5 and if chosen will be requested to sing again in a semi-final audition Dec. 7.

If recommended, the semi-finalist becomes a finalist and sings before a final jury Jan. 31. All auditions will be held in Detroit at the Masonic Temple.

All finalists who audition before the jury of professional opera judges on Jan. 31, whose voices are within the proper age brackets required by the Metropolitan Opera are automatically eligible for the finals of the Great Lakes regional auditions of the National Council of Metropolitan Opera in Cleveland Feb. 3.

APPLICATIONS and information may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Walker A. Williams, Detroit Grand Opera Association, Ford Auditorium, Detroit.

Early Deadlines In Effect for Our Next Issue

The Birmingham Eccentric will be closed Thanksgiving Day. Our issue for that week will be published on Wednesday, Nov. 21.

Therefore, all deadlines will be moved up one day. All news contributors and advertisers are asked to get their copy into our offices as early as possible.

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