



HOMEMAKING



DOWN TO EARTH

By ALICE WESSELE HURLINGAME
Special Writer

Birmingham is Beautified For the Christmas Season

Whoa! It is time to slow down and enjoy some of the beauty which has been created by our merchants, and there are public buildings for you to enjoy.

It was a pleasure to meet with some of our downtown merchants in November to hear their projected plans for beautifying the total area. An emphasis was on the spiritual meaning of Christmas and the importance of carols as presented by our local choruses. They are to be congratulated upon only getting their recorded music at scheduled times.

The individual merchants have placed a great deal of effort on individual store trimmings.

Another year they might be interested in having each block of stores join together in design planning so that it will take less material but each block will stand out as a holiday picture.

This technique was tried this year at the Bloomfield Plaza. The merchants met to consolidate store front decorations. The owner

of the development paid a portion of the total cost.

Each light post has a five-foot artificial tree which is exceptionally beautiful in daylight or when lighted at night. The end effect is worthwhile and does not cost as much as though they individually beat out their brains to undertake the task.

COMING ALONG Maple, the First Methodist Church has placed a Nativity scene with attractive figures. It is so well-dramatized that you are tempted to park your car, walk up to the creche and recapture for yourself the "why" of Christmas.

I received an arrangement Mrs. Walter Anderson made in the past which made a very attractive holiday motif.

She had taken a large ornamental picture frame and sprayed it on it. Red velvet was used for the matting. A composition made by evergreen boughs with gold angels, "Merry Xmas" was written with minute gold beads on a string.

So in the months ahead be on the alert for discarded picture frames with a future.

INQUIRIES have come to us:

Mrs. Burlingame

4-D THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC Dec. 21, 1964



DOLLS FROM FRENCH CASE IN MUSEUM EXHIBIT
Large doll (right) was made around 1880

Collector's Display Is Most Doll-ightful

Mrs. Walter F. Carey, 4125 Middelet Road, Birmingham, current exhibitor in the "Collector's Corner" at the Detroit Historical Museum, has a collection of more than 3,000 dolls.

Needless to say, not all are shown in the current display at the museum through January 31—but a fair sampling is on view to delight little girls and big girls alike.

The exhibit includes a variety of dolls ranging from the elegance of a French fashion doll to the simple charm of a hand-carved primitive.

MINIATURE DOLLS and toy furniture and dishes add a touch of atmosphere. A charming music-box with three dolls seated at a tea table, an original Shirley Temple doll and a creeping baby doll, made in the United States in 1871, are also shown. Other items include a Queen Victoria doll, a doll of the Queen Anne period (1702), a gentleman doll of the late 19th century, and an 1875 mechanical and talking doll.

An intriguing modern addition is "Rhonda" with chicken-feather hair. This doll was purchased by Mrs. Carey in 1964.

A member of the Detroit Doll

Two important church services in Scotland are the children's Nativity play and the Watchnight service Dec. 31. The principal entertainment is the pantomime where a topsy-turvy version of a fairy tale or nursery rhyme is performed.

Elements in Scale 'Must' for Good Decor

By L. OWEN MESERVE, JR.
National Society of Interior Decorators

"Scale" is too often one of the least understood and most ignored subjects in decorating, but it is also one of the most important for a homemaker who wants to

achieve the best possible results. Scale means proportion or balance—the relationship of elements in a room. It is just as important in a total room scheme as it is in planning a costume.

Good fashion sense keeps a woman from wearing a hat that is too large, or carrying a handbag that is too small, and in the same way she can avoid shapes, sizes or colors that throw a room off balance.

Clothes Will Last Longer If Handled And Hung with Care

One secret for getting the longest and best wear out of your clothes is to handle them with care.

A jacket or coat is sensitive; it molds itself to the shape of a hanger. The thin metal wire hangers on which your clothes are delivered from the cleaner will allow your coat to get lopsided and lose its shape.

Shaped wooden hangers are a good investment. They work well for trousers, too. They eliminate the deep horizontal creases that occur if you hang trousers over a thin wire hanger.

Chocolate, Mint Make Tasty Drink

Hot mint chocolate is an easy and nourishing treat. After pouring hot chocolate milk into the individual cups simply insert a peppermint stick into the cup and use as a stirrer.

An attractive garnish is a marachino cherry and a whole marshmallow speared with a toothpick and floated in the hot chocolate milk.

A Teen's Problem

The teen-age girl has been consistently revealed as the least well-fed member of the family, according to Michigan State University nutritionists.

By LYDIA KING FRENDS
Special Writer

NATURE NOW Countryside Same As at Jesus' Birth

Christmas has ever been a festival of nature centering around the Christ Child's birth and involving such plants and animals as are indigenous to a given locality and its people.

The first Christmas in Bethlehem town was set in the barren hills of Judea. One needs to be there to appreciate this countryside, an arid land where sheep and their shepherds roamed in search of the thin pasture, a place where the twisted olive trees clung to the chalky hillsides and where the fig and the palm trees flourished only on the fringe of an oasis or within the confines of a garden wall.

During the almost 2,000 years between that day and this, there has been very little change in the countryside. Along the dusty roadways with their adjoining limestone hills, only a near-desert, flora flourishes which comes and goes with the seasonal rains.



Mrs. Frehee

On the stony slopes, shepherds still tend their sheep and goats, small donkeys carry their staggering burdens at the same slow pace, the sun blazes hot at noonday and the evening star hangs so low in the sudden darkness that the watcher almost reaches up an eager hand to cup it.

Today one marvels at the contrast between the pace of modern travelers and that of the dusty feet of men in Biblical times. It is only a few moments ride from the crowd-

ed streets of Jerusalem to Bethlehem, a small village nine miles away.

A GROTTTO underlying the Church of the Nativity marks the legendary site of the Christ Child's birth. Swinging lamps, rich brocades and a silver star have replaced the pastoral simplicity of the manger scene of long ago.

And here on each Christmas Eve come hundreds of pilgrims from all over the world who seek to recapture that moment of wonder which marks not only the beginning of our Christian era but a new way of life for all mankind.

So it is at this Christmas season that we give thanks not only for the rich gifts that are ours but for all that man's folly cannot destroy; a Christmas star illuminating earth's beauty, shining alike for all mankind, a heart sensitive to the song of creation made visible in the innocence and purity of a newborn babe; and in the silence of a young mother's smile, a fit answer to all our questionings.

NOW ONCE again, a "Merry Christmas" to all who have shared with us another year's slow turning.

And may each of you find amidst the tinsel and toys a kind of wonder and reverence for that which is too precious to be concealed in any be-ribboned package.

Do as professional growers do about storing clay pots. Keep them outdoors, nested in rows on their sides, and the weather will do most of the job of cleaning them for reuse.

play it up and relate all other room elements to it. Make sure that nothing else overpowers it, but make equally sure that nothing else dwindles into insignificance because of it.

If you wish to feature a handsome breakfast, for example, no other piece of furniture should be quite as important. At the same time, other pieces in the room

should be able to "hold their own." Small chairs which might look flimsy in comparison are better used elsewhere, tiny pictures (unless grouped for importance) would be too easily overlooked.

THE relationship of sizes and shapes is the basic principle for maintaining proper scale. Don't overlook color and texture, however, since these elements also contribute to the total room scheme and can effect balance and proportion in a very definite way.

Strong colors, for instance, always make an object seem more important than it might actually be in size or shape. This is a good point to remember, especially if you're choosing upholstery or drapery fabrics, or painting any element of a room.

If a piece of furniture, a window or a wall seems to "fade," play it up with a definite color. If it seems too obtrusive, the subtle use of color will keep it in its proper place.

TEXTURE HAS very much the same effect. And texture contrast is especially important in contemporary homes which have many areas and pieces of furniture with smooth, sleek finishes.

Textured fabrics, carpets and rugs are all good foils for these. In any case, avoid monotony in

planning the scale of a room. Matched pairs, in furniture or accessories, might be the safest way to achieve proper balance, but it is by no means the most interesting way. Any two objects can be used together as long as both are similar in size, shape and interest.

TO SUM UP the important points to remember about scale, here are some do's and don'ts:

1. Do look at the room as a whole, rather than piece by piece. This is always the first step in good decorating.
 2. Do pick out the most important or most interesting element in the room and plan around it.
 3. Don't forget the importance of color and texture and their effect on the proportion of any object or portion of the room.
 4. Do avoid monotony. Don't feel that everything must be matched exactly, or arranged symmetrically, and don't forget to plan some contrast in textures and colors for added interest.
 5. Don't forget your own individual taste and preference, and even physical size of people in relation to a room.
- If your husband is tall, for example, he'll certainly appreciate chairs scaled to his height—and he'll applaud your knowledge of balance and proportion.

Home Tips

To remove scratches from silverware, purchase a small quantity of putty powder, put this in a saucer and add just enough olive oil to make a paste. Rub this on your silver with a soft flannel cloth, then polish with a chamois and the scratches should vanish.

To lighten the yellowed bone handles of cutlery, rub them with a cloth wet with peroxide of hydrogen. Rinse in clear water, and dry with a soft cloth.

If you keep expensive or dangerous liquids in glass bottles or vials, shatterproof the bottles by wrapping them in cellophane tape. Then, if the bottles are broken, the tape holds the fragments together and the contents can be salvaged.

WHATEVER THE most important element of your room is,



Visions of Their Christmas

Pinafore dresses and pretty slips are what little girls' Christmas dreams are made of. A doting grandmother may bring one of these visions to reality by giving (left) a soft pink empire, three-quarter sleeved dress delicately covered by a white cotton pinafore that follows the empire

line and is trimmed with eyelet and a tiny row of pearl buttons. More lace trims the collar and sleeves. (Right), pretty enough to be a dress is a cotton A-line slip, embroidered with a floral design and trimmed with nylon lace.



Oh! when shall all men's good
Be each man's rule,
And universal peace
Lie like a shaft of light
across the land?

—Alfred Lord Tennyson
"The Golden Year"

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS IS A FAMILY DAY . . .

A day whose greatness lies in its profound simplicity . . . A day whose spirit of peace and good will must endure if the world is to live . . . a day when the greatest joy comes in giving joy . . . A simple, sincere, significant family day . . .

Our entire staff wishes you this kind of Christmas.

- "Bernie" Haag
- "Dan" Danby
- "Jack" Ball
- "Bill" Zabriskie
- "Jean" Hardman
- "Paul" LaLiberte
- "Pitt" Walsh
- "Doc" Erwin
- "Gladys" Eddy
- "Pat" Mallette

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