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LETTER FROM LEANNA

KITCHEN-KLATTER MAGAZINE

"More Than Just Paper And Ink"

LEANNA FIELD DRIFTMIER, Editor.
LUCILE VERNES, Associate Editor.
S. W. DRIFTMIER, Business Manager.

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Like you, I will be busy these days packing boxes of cookies and candy for those of the family who can't be home for Christmas. I always tuck in a few little peanut pixies. They make ornaments for the Christmas tree or may be used as party favors. I am sure you could make them.

Choose a nice plump peanut, in the hull of course. Cut a pipe cleaner in two parts. With a large darning needle punch holes through the peanut and run the cleaners through them, bending in such a way as to make arms and legs. With warmed sealing wax apply hands, feet, and a little pointed cap for his head. Draw the face with ink or black crayon.

Have you heard some one say "I'll be glad when Christmas is over". Where have they lost the real Christmas spirit? I think they feel as they do because they have tried to crowd into a few days what they should have taken weeks to do. Christmas should be a time of real pleasure for the whole family. Don't try to give expensive gifts you can't afford. The finest gift is the one that carries the most love and I am sure we are all rich in the love we have to give to our friends and families at Christmas time.

I hope that all of you have a very happy Christmas this year, that you can be with those who love you and together be thankful that in this free and wonderful America we can remember the birth of the Christ Child who came to show us how to express peace and good will to all mankind. May God bless you and your dear families.

Sincerely,
Leanna



A MOTHER'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Father, Thou Who hast given me the great gift of mother-love, help me to show that love every day in a gentle voice; tender, skillful hands and a brave spirit.

Save me from nervous hurry and worry, from nagging, from short-sightedness and from dimness of vision that I may tuck my children in bed at night with a serene light still shining in my eyes.

Grant to me an understanding heart that I may always prove worthy of the trust of my children for I long to have them turn to me with their mistakes and failures as well as their achievements and successes.

Work within me, Thou who has made the rich colors of autumn and the tender skies of spring, that I may see beauty and make it a part of my home. Teach me Thy way of gladness, for I would ever keep a merry heart, a keen zest for the new and untried, and pure fun in the give and take of every day companionship.

Dear Father of All, may the love, the patience, the understanding, the beauty and the gladness of my home reach out to other homes and so help to bring Thy Kingdom on earth.—Amen.

Written by
Jessie Field Shambaugh

Dear Friends:

As Tiny Tim said in Dicken's *Christmas Carol*, "God Bless us, every one." That is my Christmas wish for you and I know it will be fulfilled.

Love is the most powerful force in the world and at this season of the year it finds full expression. I like to think of the love that goes into the doll clothes a grandmother is making, the hours spent in school by some little boy who is making a gift for his father, and of the tired mother who knits far into the night after the rest of the family are sound asleep so that six little pairs of red mittens may hang on the Christmas tree. Christmas sets free a flood of happiness that washes away the heartaches and disappointments of our lives and gives us a glimpse of what life could be like if every one carried this spirit of love and unselfishness all through the coming year. "All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own." Those are not my words but were written by Edwin Markham. Preceding this he wrote "There is a destiny that makes us brothers. None goes his way alone." That is why those who do the most for others are the happiest people!

This past month has been an unusually happy and busy one for us. My mother used to say, "When things settle down we'll be able to do this job." But things never seemed to settle down in the Field household and I find we are in much the same situation here at Driftmier's.

I thought before this time I could tell you what pattern I have chosen for the quilts I want to make for Emily and Alison's twin beds. As you know, I spent the last several winters making cross stitched table cloths. Don and Howard have theirs yet to come, but aren't ready to decide on what colors they want them, so I will make quilt blocks for awhile.

We had a very happy visit with Don and Mary Beth. They were here for only three days. The weather co-operated and we were able to take several lovely rides. They thought they had never seen anything so beautiful, so breath taking as the acres of "mums" in bloom. The rows were almost a quarter of a mile long and the many colors blended so perfectly. These blooms are now mowed off and the plants dug and stored in the packing sheds awaiting your orders next spring.

By the time Don and Mary Beth had had meals with the brothers and

sisters, breakfasts were about the only meals they ate with us. They really had a wonderful time and plan to come back in the spring when the tulips bloom.

As I write this, Margery and Lucile are visiting with you from the other corner of the house. I can just hear their voices once in a while. If we are able to carry out our present plans we will go to California after the first of the year for a few weeks' visit with my sister Sue and her family and other relatives and friends. Our sister-in-law, Bertha Field, has had to be on crutches for some time this fall—the result of a badly bruised knee. She was fortunate it wasn't broken. It was

quite a coincidence that my sister Jessie was also on crutches at the same time. Her injury, she says, was the result of "Hurricane Edna". She was visiting her daughter, Ruth Watkins, in Connecticut. Before the storm hit she went into the yard to get a good look at the weather. As the wind started to blow harder she ran to the house and in doing so tripped on a stone or something and fell, breaking a small bone in her foot. I don't know how she did it, as lame as she was, but she visited her four nieces and nephews,—three living in New Jersey. Margery Conrad Sayre, Dwight Eaton and Mary Fischer Chapin; and also Frederick in Rhode Island. She arranged her trip to Frederick's so that she could be in Bristol to attend his church service. The church was simply covered with ivy which had turned a brilliant red. I am surprised the hurricane hadn't blown the leaves off. It was wonderful to have such direct news from these nieces and nephews. She was sorry there was not time for her to visit Philip Field in Washington.



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

By

Olga Rolf Tiemann

An ardent wave of "fix it yourself" and "do it yourself" activity is spreading in, or coming from, various directions. Perhaps this is an aftermath of the years of war. We know how many a soldier boy devised ways to pop corn without the conventional items usually considered necessary — if Mom just sent the corn, he got it popped! We know how they "fixed up" their barracks with whatever was at hand to make them home-like, comfortable and pretty.

We know how they celebrated Christmases far away from home when nothing around them looked Christmasy. In the March 1943 issue of KITCHEN-KLATTER (page 10) is a picture of the tree Wayne Driftmier and his buddies made in Hawaii one Christmas. Six brooms, set tepee-fashion made a cone-shaped tree held together at the top under an inverted can, which of course was not a can at all but the shining Christmas Star!

If those boys could do that with what they had, what cannot we do with things we have at hand or can easily obtain? Trees, stars, candles, bells, Madonna and Child are all a part of Christmas. For brightness we add red berries, tinsel, shiny bells and other ornaments.

To make a wreath for the front door, cut a pliable branch from some shrub and bend it in a circle of the size desired. Fasten the ends securely with wire. Sprigs of evergreen are then wired to the circle — the first one tipped a little to the left, the next, laid so as to hide the wiring, is tipped a little to the right, and so on until the entire frame has been covered. The decorations for the wreath may be natural or painted pine cones, red berries or shiny Christmas Tree balls. Finish with a big red bow. Ropes of greenery are made the same way using lengths of stout cord on which to wire the evergreen twigs. These garlands can be hung above doors, windows, or along the mantel.

Sprays or swags for the front door are even simpler to make. A few evergreen branches are wired together near the base and finished with a ribbon bow and cones, or other Christmas decorations. For a star-shaped ornament for the door, decide on the size and then cut a five-pointed star out of wire mesh (hardware cloth). Beginning at the points, fill in with twigs of evergreen by pulling the stems through the wire mesh. After filling in points with spruce or cedar, you may like to use pine for the center. Cones or Christmas ball ornaments in the center add the finishing touch.

The extent of the imagination is the only limit to the kinds of trees one can make. For a flat tree to hang on the front door, cut a triangular-shaped tree with trunk and tub from a piece of plywood. The tub should

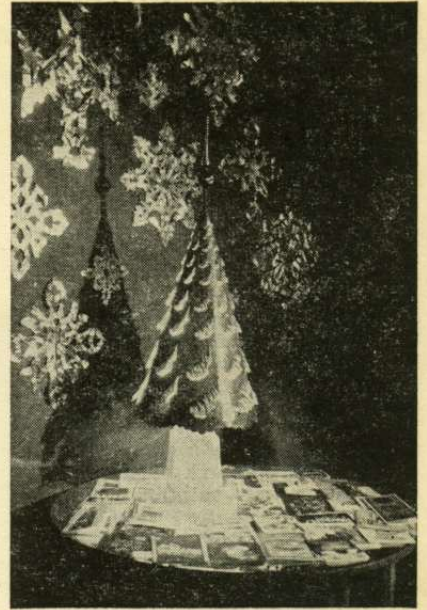
be painted red. Cut a piece of wire mesh to fit the triangular part of the tree and staple it on the plywood. Start at the top and tuck in sprigs of evergreen. Spruce would be ideal for this. Trim the tree with whatever suits your fancy. The tree is then ready to hang on the door.

For a table tree, shape wire mesh into a tall conical form. Nail this to a good solid base so it will not topple over. The base may be square, round, or star-shaped. Start filling the cone with branches from the bottom and work up. Longer branches will be required at the bottom, getting shorter as one works up the frame. Instead of the wire cone, holes could be bored spirally all the way up a square stick of wood, two inches thick, and whatever height desired. The stick would have to be fastened to a firm base. Graduated lengths of evergreen branches should be jammed firmly into the holes, and topped with a glittering star. Table trees may be decorated with small Christmas balls, Christmas birds or angels, painted pine cones, or whatever is at hand. Small red clay flower pots could be flecked with silver paint, turned upside down, fitted with Christmas ball clappers thus making bells to hang on the tree. For a party or club meeting, water-filled pill bottles could be wired to the branches, each one to hold a florist's red rose or carnation, or a Christmas Cactus blossom.

A geometric tree made from wood is different and unusual. On a piece of wood, draw a triangle with 2 sides measuring 16 inches each, and the third side (the bottom of the tree) measuring 15 inches. At right angles to these lines, measure in one and three quarters inches and draw a second triangle inside the larger one. Saw along the lines of both triangles leaving a triangular frame one and three-fourths inches wide. The base should be 3 inches high and cut from material that is 3 inches thick. The bottom measurement should be 6 by 3 inches tapering off to a square at the top of 3 times 3 inches. A groove must be cut in the top for the triangular frame to fit into snugly. This leaves a smooth top to the base to set a small container holding water for greenery and flowers. Paint the wood with silver or gold. Tack sprigs of evergreens, colored balls and berries a little above each of the two lower corners of the triangular frame and then about half way up each side, and more at the top.

If there is no evergreen material at hand, a Christmas tree is still possible. It would be strange indeed if somewhere one could not find heads of dock. Use styrofoam or a large pinholder for the base and stick the brown stems of dock in the plastic foam or pinholder to make a nicely shaped tree. For decorations cut birthday candles in half and fasten to the dock with floral clay.

Decorate the hall mirror with a large chicken wire bell. Make the back side flat to fit against the mirror — round the other half like a bell. Spray with gilt paint. Use a length of chartreuse colored ribbon through the center of the bell ending with a cerise ball for the clapper. A



This picture was taken in Lucile's home showing the way they displayed their Christmas cards. The light from the revolving table lamp, shining down on the colorful cards made a bright spot in the living room.

ribbon bow and cerise ornaments finish the top. Fasten a row of cerise balls in the wire about a third of the way down the bell. The balls at the lip of the bell are slightly larger and chartreuse in color. Use ribbon to tie the bell to the top of the mirror. The reflection in the mirror makes the other half of the bell. Evergreen twigs could be substituted for the ball ornaments, and red ribbon instead of chartreuse.

Such plants as Christmas Cheer, Christmas Cactus, and Poinsettias should occupy prominent places during the Christmas season. Red Begonias, red Saintpaulias or red Geraniums would be equally cheerful and bright.

Make simple arrangements for table, buffet or mantel. A Madonna and child with a background of evergreens, Magnolia leaves, or dried material, and the addition of holly or red berries is effective when placed in a flat bowl or on a slab of wood. Arrange pine branches and three bright Christmas balls with a piece of driftwood. Christmas Roses can be used for the center of interest at the base of a large candle which with Yucca leaves give height — add berried branches for color to make a Yuletide centerpiece.

Candle boards are lovely with evergreen material, pine cones and red berries laid at the base of red or white candles. Make 3 rows of holes (spacing them 2 inches apart) on a 12 by 6 inch board. You will not fill all the holes with candles each time but this number allows variation for any candle arrangement. The boards may be laid flat on the table or raised on fancy feet or scrolls, or a spool may be glued under each corner. Sandpaper the wood, and wax, varnish or paint it. One woman used soft green paint and wiped it off immediately. This acted as a sort of stain. It was varnished when dry.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FREDERICK

Dear Friends:

As I sit here at my typewriter tonight it just doesn't seem possible that Christmas is just around the corner. I was reminded of it with a jolt this afternoon when a local photographer delivered the several hundred Christmas cards that we had ordered. With these cards to sign and address you know how all of my spare time will be used for the next three weeks. In addition to the cards Betty wants me to send out a Christmas letter, but I confess to you now that I may not have time to do it.

In these days before Christmas we Christians must think of ourselves as the ones who are to prepare the way for the coming of the Prince of Peace into our community. Jesus made it very clear that his followers are to be the peace makers of the world. If he truly is the Prince of Peace, it will be because you and I have served him as peacemakers. When we think of the mess the world is in today, we cannot help but be overcome by this thought, and the big question in our minds is: Where do we begin?

We begin with ourselves. The causes of all the quarrels and fights are to be found in the hearts, in the spirits of men and women. Before we spend too much time wondering why the Prince of Peace cannot put an end to the wars of the world, let us spend some time wondering why you and I have not put an end to our own quarrelsomeness. Most of our quarrels are caused by pride, by selfishness, and by fear.

If you are like I am, you pick up the paper and read of all the trouble in the world, and then, with a sigh of dismay, you wonder what you could possibly do to help bring peace. There is much that we can do to bring peace into the world. Just as it takes two to make a quarrel, so does it take two to make peace. Each of us must be a peacemaker, and the place to begin is in our own hearts. When we think of peace-making as the opening of our hearts and our lives to the rule of the Prince of Peace, it does not seem too difficult, but actually, for most of us the most difficult thing in the world is the offering of our lives to Christ. It is sometimes easier to make war than it is to rid ourselves of pride. It is easier to be angry than it is to admit that we lack Christian humility. And then there is our selfishness! Who of us has not been tortured by the thought of lost friendships and family tensions all because of our demanding our own way? How much happier you and I could make our lives if we could just move over and let Christ have the central place in our hearts. Even in our fears we have the big fear of facing the truth about ourselves. Each of us has fears, and we all know the experience of living without faith. We all know what it means to doubt and distrust the very persons in whom we should have the most faith. This is our sin, and there is nothing that can save us from it but the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, not because he is interested in intervening in our quarrels, but because he is interested in preventing the quarrels from arising at all. He is not interested in dealing with symptoms, but in dealing with causes. As we celebrate his birthday this Christmas, his message to us is more than a plea for peace between nations; it is more than a plea for us to stop our quarreling and our bickering. It is a plea for us to be peacemakers with humility, with charity, and with faith.

I told a friend of mine the other day that the nicest gift he could give to a former friend of his would be to begin speaking to him again. Do you, the reader of this letter, know of someone that you could make happy just by being friendly? Life is too short for you to afford a single enemy. If there is someone with whom you have had trouble in time past, why don't you become extravagantly Christian and send that person a lovely gift or at least a nice card? Even as you read this paragraph you may be thinking of a hundred reasons why you don't want to become friends with someone who is now your enemy, but just remember this—as a Christian you have the most powerful reason in the world for doing so. Jesus wants you and me to be peacemakers.

As a clergyman I probably know better than most others what a tremendous appeal Christmas has to all sorts and conditions of men and women, boys and girls. In these few weeks before Christmas we begin to feel the irresistible pull of the event. Even when a bad temper makes one want to fight against it, Christmas eventually wins out. Right about now someone reading this letter may be planning to pay no attention to Christmas this year, and if that is the case, I would like to say that that person is in for some trouble. The universal appeal of Christmas will eventually win out.

What is the universal appeal of Christmas? It is first of all the universal desire in all people to express their love and affection. It is the universal desire to adore what is good. Deep in the desires of each of us the longing to express our love, our adoration and reverence for God, for goodness, for life, and Christmas is the opening of the floodgates of affection. We know that the love of God through the love of our fellowmen is the law of life, and the appeal of Christmas is the thrill of experiencing real life for at least one short period of the year. During this season you and I do things that we have wanted to do all along; we are kind the way we have wanted to be kind; we say the nice things we have wanted to say; and all because the Christ Child plucks a responsive chord in our hearts.

The universal appeal of Christmas is the desire to break through the barriers of self-centeredness and love as God would have us love, but it is also the universal appeal of the desire to be loved. We want to be reassured that God loves us, and His gift of the Christ Child does just that. We want to be reassured that God's love for us



This picture of Frederick's children, Mary Leanna and David, was taken last Christmas. This year they will hang their stockings from the mantel of the fireplace in their new home.

is the real love of our family and friends and Christmas provides ample opportunities for that reassurance. No matter how much we may live for others, there is within us a deep yearning to be remembered by others, to know that there are those who care, those who think of us and want us to be happy. The person who says: "I don't want a thing for Christmas," is never being completely honest. We may not want anything that comes wrapped up in pretty paper, but who of us does not want the love behind the gift? God's gift to us at Christmas is love, and that is a gift that not one of us can live without. We try to understand that God's love for us is symbolized in the Christ Child, but try as we may, we never fully understand it until we know what it is to receive love from another, a love for which we feel unworthy.

Whatever your faith, I do hope that you are planning to go to church this Christmas. If your church is having some special Christmas services, go to them also. You will be surprised at what it will do for you. It is because so many of us make the Christmas journey right along with the angels, that the satisfactions of Christmas are so great. No matter who we are; no matter what our circumstances; no matter what our family background; no matter what our shame; we all want to show forth our Christian love at Christmas time, and we all want to know that God's love for us is in the kindness and the friendliness of the people around us. If nothing else happens to you when you go to church this Christmas, won't you speak to the people that you find sitting near you; speak to them as fellow pilgrims to Bethlehem.

Sincerely, Frederick.

COVER PICTURE

When Abigail, our son Wayne's wife, goes shopping she always knows where she can find Emily and Alison—at the doll counter, of course—for what little girl does not dream of a new doll for Christmas.



"FOLLOW THE STAR"

A Christmas Devotional

By Mabel Nair Brown

SETTING: Cover a wall, a screen, or or some other backdrop, with deep blue crepe paper. Here and there on the blue paper fasten small silver stars. In the center place a very large silver star. There should be a silver "point" made for each of the five points of the star so that at the proper time as indicated in the script, the points can be attached to the big star. For these points use one of two things; either cover triangles of heavy paper with the Christmas tinsel, or cover with glue and then sprinkle with glitter. A pin will fasten them to the big star points.

On a table in front of, and lower than this "starry" backdrop place a table upon which you have an arrangement of greens, pinecones and perhaps some tree ornaments with the open Bible (opened to Matt. 2) before it. Also have three packages or carved boxes or jewel cases to represent the three gifts of the Wisemen which are placed to one side of the Bible upon the table. Be sure to place some small object under the top half of the Bible to hold it in an elevated position, or at a slant.

MUSICAL PRELUDE: Begin with "theme" song, "Star Of The East" and continue on into a medley of "There's a Song In the Air" "O Holy Night" and continue with "We Three Kings Of Orient Are" as the scripture is read.

CALL TO WORSHIP (given to musical background above)

Leader—

What star is this, with beams so bright,
Which shames the sun's less radiant light?
It shines to welcome a new-born King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a Star proceed."
And lo! the eastern sages stand,
To read in the heavens the Lord's command.

O Jesus, while the Star of Grace
Invites us now to seek thy face,
May we no more that grace repel,
Or quench the light which shines so well.

—C. Coffin—written 1736.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE, Matt. 2:1-11. If possible let it be read by two readers who read it responsively, standing a little in front and to each side of the table upon which the Bible rests.

LEADER: The Bible is a "lamp unto our feet and a lamp unto our path" just as that immortal Star of the East was to the Wisemen. No

matter how rough the Road of Life may be for us it will never be dark, if we will but *look up* and **FOLLOW THE STAR.**

For the Star of the East beams its timeless light
To point **THE WAY** as on that Holy Night.

From the manger in Bethlehem far away,
On through the present we face to-day,
On into the future, uncertain, unseen—

But still Star-lighted like all years between!

Always, forever, Christ's way made bright

By the Bethlehem Star's eternal light!

Narrator continues: (background music of Christmas carols if desired)

So, we see the past is a memory, precious though old,

We give it to Christ like the wise-men's gold.

The present — our deeds, our words, our ways —

We offer as frankincense to give God praise.

The future, our treasure of myrrh, is still sealed,

To be by the light of His Star revealed.

Leader pauses, then continues:

Lead on, great Star, still shining above

We'll follow in *Faith, Loyalty, Service, Praise and Love.*

As Leader speaks each verse about the five points of the star, the person representing that point will step forward and pin it into position on the big star. (If desired, each of these persons may speak the verse herself, which will add variety to the presentation. In that case the Leader would step to one side of the stage until the star is complete.)

Faith:

This points the way to greater **FAITH**

That we may strive to see
The paths the Master chooses
Are best for you and me.

Loyalty:

'Tis constant **LOYALTY** we must have

To follow the Stars appointed Way—

Loyalty to His purpose and His plans—

Ours, but to follow and obey.

Service:

SERVICE is this shining point.
As we journey along Life's way
We should fill it full of service to God,

And to our fellowmen each day.

Praise:

One point must surely stand for **PRAISE.**

To God for blessings without end.
To those who fill with joy, each day—

Our loved ones, neighbors, friends.

Love: (is placed at top point)

We now place **LOVE**, the topmost point

May it with other points combine
To make this glowing Bethlehem's Star,

Within our own lives shine.

As a spotlight is now turned on the shining star a soloist sings "Star Of

The East". Music of the song is continued as following meditation and prayer is given.

MEDITATION:

"Again the shepherd's vision,
And above a guiding Star;
A sign to look within our hearts
For One they sought afar.
When dawns that wondrous day
And men to Him draw near,
We know it is not far
From Bethlehem to here!
(W. C. Thurston in Sunshine Magazine)

PRAYER:

Our Heavenly Father we come to Thee, offering our gifts of faith, loyalty, service, praise and love to use as thou wilt for the good of thy Kingdom. It comforts us to know that "there is not enough darkness in the whole world to put out the light of one small candle". Just so there is not enough evil or despair in the whole world to put out the light of the Christ-child's Star. Still continue to guide us and to keep us ever in the light of that Star, we ask in the name of the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

Music of "Star Of The East" swells louder then echoes away as leader pronounces the "amen" and steps off stage (or curtain falls, if one is used).

A CHRISTMAS POEM

A humble stable sheltered Him,
Bestrewn with fragrant hay,
And all around the sleeping Child
The patient cattle lay.

No glaring light shone from the Inn
Upon the Baby's head,
But in the sky a gleaming Star
Its brilliant radiance shed.

No blaring music rent the night
To mar those moments still,
Though angels sang in ecstasy
To shepherds on a hill.

No pompous kings with haughty stride
Came bringing gifts of gold,
But reverent Wise Men from the East
Their love with perfumes told.

Oh, Holy Night, Oh, Marvelous Birth,
A lesson be to me—
The greatest lives are those who live
In true simplicity.

—Mary Duncomb.

CHRISTMAS WISH TO OUR READERS

Wherever there is sickness,
May Santa Claus bring health;
Wherever there is poverty,
May Santa Claus bring wealth;
Wherever one is weeping,
May tears to smiles give way;
Wherever sadness hovers,
May joy come Christmas day.
To every heart that's aching,
May peace and comfort come,
And may an outlook rosy
Supplant each outlook glum;
May friends now separated
Reunited be to stay,
And everyone find gladness
Upon this Christmas Day.

—Anon.

MALE CALL

By Mabel Weber

It is delightful to make tiny ruffled pinafores for toddlers and trim fitting clothes for teen-aged daughters, but the gratitude one receives from the men in one's life when one sews a garment for them is beyond words. They are so appreciative that it is almost shameful all home sewers don't take more stitches for men.

The first caution is to guard against the "made-with-loving-hands-at-home" look. This is caused by using materials that are unsuitable, too feminine in pattern or texture, and not cutting, fitting, or tailoring properly.

General directions for all male sewing are similar to those for female garments. Take measurements carefully of neck, chest, sleeve length, desired length of finished garments and waistline if necessary. An old well-fitting garment may be used for measuring if the article is to be a gift, or the man or boy is unavailable. Next check the pattern piece measurements and adjust accordingly.

Guard against using too feminine materials. This goes for all garments but shirts where almost anything passes — even dotted swisses and voiles for summer wear. It is a good plan to browse through the men's wear section in a store or catalog to see just what fabrics are being used in the best quality garments.

In stitching the garment, each seam should be pressed before joining to another. Thus when the garment is finished it will be almost completely pressed. Some women like to have their tailor or dry cleaner do the final pressing, especially for articles made of wool.

Shirts

When women do sew for males, they usually make shirts and/or pajamas. We'll skip over the pajamas since they were discussed pretty thoroughly last fall. Shirts are really fun to make. Most pattern companies carry several designs in shirt patterns. My favorite is cut by a male professional shirt-maker and is offered by one of the store magazines. Some patterns are cut more generously than others so it is well to check before cutting, or maybe try the pattern in an inexpensive material.

Interfacing is not mentioned in some patterns; however every good ready-made shirt has it so it is smart to use it. Nurses's cloth, good parts of old sheets (use only if you shrink the shirt material), or self-material works fine. Collar, cuffs, and pocket flaps should be interfaced. A strip of cloth under the facing on the button side will prevent the buttons from tearing off too easily.

If your man carries lots of precious stuff in his shirt pockets he will appreciate a deeper pockets than most patterns allow, so add an inch or two. Since all pocket flaps should button, the pens and other miscellany will be safe even when their owner bends over.

Two other shirt tips are these: Corduroy is always cut so that the nap



This year there will be another stocking hung up at the Wayne Driftmiers' for little Clark must surely have one, too. These stockings are made from red felt and are gayly decorated in sequins, colored beads and appliqued Christmas motifs.

smooths up on all pieces. And plaids are matched on the side seams, while pockets and flaps are cut on the true bias or matched exactly to the shirt front.

Trousers and Shorts

Shorts are quite easy to make at home, especially those with boxer waists. With the yearly increase in the popularity of shorts, a pretty penny can be saved by sewing them yourself.

Making trousers for boys is more difficult since almost all the available patterns are cut too wide in the legs. It is hard to whittle them down so that they look like the ready-made ones. You can, however, make over father's pants for son with some careful fitting, so why not be thrifty? I've even made son's pants from mama's slacks!

Most men prefer knit cotton undershorts, but if yours prefer the others, you can rip up an old well-fitting pair for a pattern and make them yourself. Here too, there are commercial patterns available.

Jackets

Sport jackets are often made at home. The wife of a well-known midwest TV personality made him a beautifully fitted jacket using all the interfacing, etc., found in the ready-made ones. It was a job that she might not want to tackle again. The buttonholes were made by an unsympathetic tailor who frowned on home tailoring for men. Her crowning touch was the chainstitching of the husband's name on the inside breast pocket.

Most jacket sewing is done for the boys in the family. Even overcoats can be made from old garments. Grandmothers are especially good at ripping, washing, turning, and piecing out used material to make good-looking warm coats as well as sport jackets with zipper or button fronts.

The construction details of robes of all types are very similar to those for jackets and are not too difficult. One woman, unable to find the type of material she wished in a fabric department, found what she wanted in

the drapery department for a Christmas robe for her husband.

Professional Gowns

These are the crisp coats worn by dentists, doctors, lab technicians, and barbers and are known by various names. One of the big pattern companies recently put on the market a pattern for these. Before writing this article, I decided to make up one to check the size, style, and cost with the ready-made ones. The pattern comes in even sizes from 36 to 44. For a size 40 now-graduated dental student, using a size 38 pattern but allowing a little extra in the bias neckband, I made one in a nutria brown disciplined cotton. By making the seams a little narrower than the pattern instructed, the garment fits beautifully. Six removable pearl buttons were used for the side closing, with a two-hole pearl button on the neckband for more comfort.

This experiment resulted in the following findings which are seconded by all the men in the graduating class. The cost of a heavy white cotton ready-made gown is \$4.50. The disciplined cotton one cost under \$4, is cooler, needs no starch, doesn't wrinkle easily, and is comparable to the \$8 ready-made nylons which are hot to wear. The pattern's sleeves are short and more comfortable than the tight three-quarter ones of the ready-mades. As to using a color, today's doctors and dentists are switching to colored gowns, having white only for laboratory work where chemical stains might require bleaching. Even here lighter weight cotton is in order. The removable buttons are preferable to the hammered on snaps although the pattern can be adapted for these.

This sewing adventure could easily become a lucrative one for anyone who likes to do tailored work. It can also solve that problem of gifts for those professional men who seem to have everything. These jackets can be made of a variety of materials—poplin, twill, linen-like fabrics, shantung, faille, percale or broadcloth in cotton, rayon or nylon fibers as well as the disciplined cotton. The color choice is wide, but the first one should be conservative until you know the man's preference.

Ties and Such

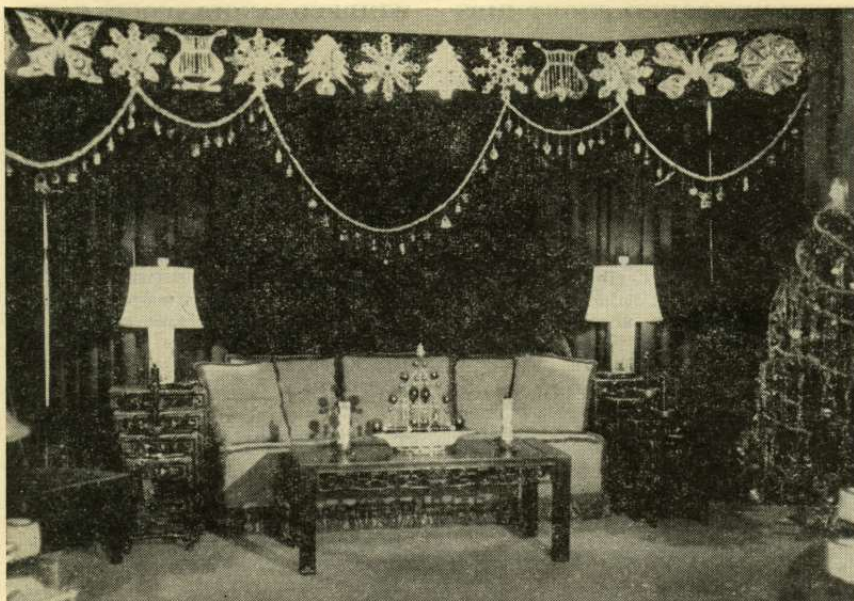
Bow and four-in-hand ties can be made at home. There are commercial patterns available that give good results if the instructions are carefully followed. Special tie materials as well as the necessary interlining may be found in large department stores, especially before Christmas.

Handrolled and initialed linen handkerchiefs are nice little sowing projects that have a luxurious look if done well. If the corners are slightly rounded, they roll easier. One can either whip or blind stitch the hems.

So Why Not?

Boys and men love to have sewing done just for them and will wear it proudly if it looks "custom" and not "home"-made.

"Send the Kitchen-Klatter Magazine as a gift this year. It will be a monthly reminder of your love"—Leanna.



I wish this picture might be in color. These red drapes are on the north end of Lucile's living room. The decorations across the top are cut from aluminum foil and beneath them are Christmas tree ornaments hung from tinsel rope. The centerpiece on the coffee table was made by cutting mesh fence wire and fitting it into an oblong dish. Red, silver and gold ornaments were fastened to it.

LETTER FROM LUCILE

Hello, Good Friends:

A few minutes ago I finished mixing up a batch of cookie dough, and while it is chilling I'll have a little visit with you.

The recipe that I used today is the one we call "Dorothy's Christmas Cookies". We shared it with you several years ago for the first time, but reprinted it in our issue of December, 1953. In the two years that have passed since then we've acquired so many new readers that I'm copying it this very minute for their benefit.

Into a bowl put: 3 cups sifted flour, 2 tps. baking powder, 1 scant tsp. soda and 1/2 tsp. nutmeg. Cut into this 1 cup of shortening; (I use half-butter, half-vegetable shortening). In another bowl beat 2 eggs thoroughly and then add 1 cup of sugar, 4 Tbs. sweet milk and 1 tsp. of vanilla. Beat this well and pour into the dry ingredients. Chill. Then roll, cut and bake in a 375 degree oven until nicely browned.

If you've never used this recipe I believe that you'd be as well pleased with the results as we have always been. It goes together fast, is easy to handle after a good chilling, and the finished product tastes absolutely delicious. Today I intend to roll it very thin, place a mint wafer on one and cover with a second thin cookie. Juliana simply loves these, and so does everyone else who's tasted them.

This year's cookie sessions won't find me in the boat I was in last year when holiday preparations began. When I went down town I found that farsighted people had purchased practically every package and jar of the things needed to decorate Christmas cookies. We scoured the town and could find none of the things we'd depended upon. So this year I began buying colored sugars, silver shot, etc., the minute it appeared on the shelves (back in May), and now I have every-

thing I need right at hand.

If you've been reading Kitchen-Klatter for several years you will remember, possibly, that we had one big mystery in connection with our Christmas decorations. The Christmas tree angel disappeared and never was found. Now a second mystery has developed, and in some respects it is even more baffling.

Five years ago I made a huge red tablecloth, one that would fit the table when it was pulled out to its maximum size. This red cloth made a wonderful background for Christmas decorations of all kinds, and we used it throughout the entire holiday season.

Last year Russell and I entertained at a buffet dinner during the holiday, and in preparation for this I opened the drawer where the cloth had always been kept and expected to take it out and check to be sure that it was in perfect condition. No cloth! Only a month earlier I had cleaned that drawer and the cloth was there, so I couldn't imagine what in the world had happened to it.

At first I wasn't really dismayed because I thought that for some odd reason (but still a *reason*!) Juliana or Russell had taken the cloth and put it elsewhere. They were flabbergasted when I asked them what they had done with the red tablecloth? I couldn't answer this, for when you come right down to it, what in the world *would* they be doing with a tablecloth?

We tore the house to pieces, couldn't find the cloth, and ended by using a white damask cloth for our buffet dinner and throughout the rest of the season. The only thing I could think of as an explanation was that in our up stairs we had all kinds of nooks and crannies where things might possibly get misplaced and that somehow the red cloth had gotten up there. I fully intended to find it there when the upstairs was torn down right to

the rafters for last winter's big remodeling job. Well, we found all kinds of things during the "tearing down" process that preceded the actual remodeling, but the cloth and the angel didn't turn up. Of these two things the cloth is by far the more mysterious because it was so BIG — while the angel was so small.

(When Donald reads this he will shake his head and wonder all over again whatever became of his skis! He shipped them by express to Mother's and Dad's house several years ago. They arrived all right, but in some totally mysterious and unfathomable way they disappeared and were never seen again. You know how big skis are, so you know too how baffling this has always been to the family.)

Juliana has been doing her first real handwork in preparation for Christmas gifts this year. Back in September she began cross-stitching and I was happily surprised at her painstaking work, her neat knots on the underside and her caution in seeing that all of the stitches ran in the same direction. She made some dish towels first and now is working on a pair of pillow cases.

During this time I've been embroidering a white linen cloth with matching napkins, and it gives me such a good warm feeling when the two of us sit together in the living room at night busily plying our needles and visiting. Incidentally, doesn't it give you a start when your 'little girl' first takes a genuine interest in something that has been around the house but that she's never really seen?

Shortly after Juliana finished her first cross-stitched dish towel I had occasion to use the beautiful, elaborately cross-stitched table cloth that Russell's mother made for us several years ago. This is a big linen cloth gorgeously embroidered in shades of gray, red and black. Mother Verness worked on it for months — and we treasure it. Well, although this had been on the table many times through recent years, Juliana never really noticed it until she too started cross-stitching, and I wish you might have seen her study it. She knows now how much work it represents, and I was amused when she finished her comments by saying: "Please take good care of this, Mother, for I want to use it in my own home someday."

Indeed I will take good care of it for it makes me happy to think that in years to come it will be treasured and enjoyed in another home.

Since I last wrote to you we've had the great pleasure of entertaining two old friends whom we love and get to see far too rarely. I'm a great believer in making new friends, in expanding one's horizons and interests, but now that I'm in my forties I feel that nothing ever quite takes the place of old friends whom one has known for years. They've shared bitterly hard fortune and wonderfully good fortune; they know your lamentable human failings and cling to your friendship in spite of it! It seems to me sheer disaster to lose any old friends for any reason — and I'm sure that you share my feelings about this.

We're getting ready for our church
(Continued on Page 12, Col. 3)

"Recipes Tested in the Kitchen - Klatter Kitchen"

By

LEANNA, LUCILE and MARGERY

CUSTARD PIE

(The listener who sent in this recipe has baked over 4000 pies in a cafe.)

- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup sugar
- Nutmeg to taste
- 1 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla
- 1/8 tsp. salt

After just a little beating with a fork add 2 cups scalded milk, still using the fork for beating until well-mixed. Strain into the crust and bake. If desired sprinkle top with nutmeg before baking.

ASPARAGUS CASSEROLE

- 1 large can asparagus
- 6 hard cooked eggs, cut up
- 1 medium sized package potato chips
- 1/4 lb. cheese, shredded
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup

Arrange in baking dish in layers, starting with potato chips. Save some of chips and cheese for top. Bake about 25 minutes in 350° oven. Serves about 8.

CONGO SQUARES

- 2 3/4 cups sifted flour
- 2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup shortening
- 1 lb. package brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup nut meats
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup dates, cut up

Mix and sift flour, baking powder and salt. Melt shortening and add to brown sugar. Cool. Add eggs one at a time and beat well. Add dry ingredients, nuts, coconut and dates. Spread in a 10 1/2 x 15 1/2 x 3/4 inch pan and bake in a 350 degree oven about 30 minutes. Cool and cut in squares. For variation, you might leave out the coconut and dates and add a package of chocolate bits instead.

ENGLISH TOFFEE

- 1 cup blanched almonds
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar (well-packed in cup)

2 5-cent sweet milk chocolate bars
Sprinkle 1/2 cup almonds over a buttered pan. Place butter in a heavy skillet with sugar and bring to boiling point and boil for 12 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour over almonds in a thin sheet. When set, but still hot, arrange pieces of chocolate bars over the top and as that melts sprinkle on rest of almonds. Cool and break in pieces.

PRESSURE-COOKED SHORT RIBS

- 2 Tbls. flour
- 2 1/2 tps. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 4 lbs. beef short ribs, cut into 3-inch pieces
- 2 Tbls. salad oil
- 1 cup canned tomatoes
- 1 1/2 tps. Worcestershire

In paper bag, mix flour, salt, pepper, paprika. Add short ribs; toss until well coated. In hot salad oil in pressure cooker, brown short ribs until nicely browned on all sides. Add tomatoes and Worcestershire. Cook at 15 lbs. pressure 25 minutes as manufacturer directs. Reduce pressure instantly. Serve with buttered noodles. Makes 6 servings.

REFRIGERATOR FRUIT CAKE

- 4 cups rolled graham crackers
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. allspice
- 4 cups chopped marshmallows
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1/2 cup glace cherries
- 2 cups chopped dates
- 1 cup currants, mashed
- 1 3/4 cups sweetened condensed milk (1 can)

Roll graham crackers very fine. Mix in salt and cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and allspice. Add marshmallows. Add chopped nuts, raisins, dates, currants and cherries, mixed with the sweetened condensed milk and mix all together thoroughly.

Press into a loaf pan lined with wax paper. Chill for two days before cutting.

BAKED PORK CHOPS CORN DRESSING

- 1 1/2 cups soft bread crumbs
 - 1 cup drained canned cut corn
 - 3 Tbls. liquid from corn
 - 1 egg, slightly beaten
 - 2 Tbls. chopped green pepper
 - 1 Tbls. grated onion
 - 1 Tbls. melted drippings
 - 1/4 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - 4 pork chops (cut 3 or 4 to a pound).
- To bread crumbs add corn, corn liquid, egg, green pepper, grated onion and drippings. Season with Worcestershire sauce, pepper and salt. Mix well.

Season and brown pork chops on both sides. Arrange in a casserole and top each with corn dressing. Add about one-fourth inch of water in the bottom of the casserole.

Bake, uncovered, in a moderate oven at 350 degrees about 45 minutes. Cover and bake for 30 minutes longer. Total baking time depends on thickness of the pork chops. Do not let all liquid cook away. Add more as needed. Drain off excess fat and make gravy from liquid in the pan.

"Remember, cakes and candies make a very acceptable Christmas gift." —Leanna.

WHIPPED ANGEL FOOD CAKE

- Beat
- 12 egg whites
- 1 1/3 tps. cream of tartar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- Add
- 1 1/4 tps. vanilla
- Fold in 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- Sift together
- 1 cup sifted pastry flour
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- Fold in flour and sugar to granulated sugar and beaten egg white mixture. Bake in 275 degree oven for 30 minutes and 325 degree oven for the last 30 minutes. All measurements must be level.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH MINCEMEAT

- 5 pounds meat
- 12 pounds apples
- 6 pounds large, soft, flat raisins
- 3 pounds small raisins
- 5 pounds currants
- 2 pounds citron
- 1 1/2 pounds suet
- 6 pounds brown sugar
- 4 Tbls. cinnamon
- 2 Tbls. nutmeg
- 2 Tbls. cloves
- 2 Tbls. salt
- 3 quarts apple cider

Cook down until it begins to thicken. Can in pint jars and seal. This makes 53 pints.

PECAN PRALINES

- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar caramelized
- 3 cups pecans

Have nuts ready. Cook sugar and milk to soft ball stage. Remove from heat and caramelize the smaller amount of sugar. Add the caramelized sugar to first and reheat. Remove from fire and add nuts and beat until slightly creamy. Pour into a buttered pan. We use a large cookie sheet and drop by Tbls. 2 inches apart.

BROWN SUGAR FUDGE

- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup white corn syrup
- 1 cup top cream
- 1 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla
- 1 cup nuts

Bring the first 4 ingredients to a boil and boil until firm ball stage. Remove from fire. Stir in vanilla and nuts. Beat as long as possible and then pour into a buttered 8-inch square pan. When cool, cut into squares.

CINDER PLANT

(Repeated by Request)

In a deep dish put a piece of coal or a clinker. Around this, but not on top of it, put 6 tablespoons water, 6 tablespoons salt, 6 tablespoons bluing, 2 tablespoons ammonia, 2 teaspoons red ink or other red color. Do not stir or move about any more than necessary. In a few days it will begin to grow. You can add more water and salt from time to time.

CHICKEN A LA KING

1/2 cup chicken fat, butter, or margarine
 6 tablespoons chopped green pepper
 3 cups canned mushrooms
 3/4 cup sifted all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons salt
 3 cups chicken broth
 3 cups milk
 6 tablespoons finely cut pimiento
 3 pints diced cooked chicken
 Melt the fat and cook green pepper and mushrooms in it about 5 minutes. Blend in the flour and salt, then add broth and milk. Cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Add pimiento and chicken. Blend well.

HOT SPICED CIDER

1/2 gallon sweet cider
 1/2 cup brown sugar
 2-inch stick cinnamon
 6 whole cloves
 1/4 teaspoon allspice

MORAVIAN CHRISTMAS LOAF

3 cups milk, scalded
 1 cup butter
 1 cup sugar
 1 pkg. dry yeast, dissolved in
 1/4 cup warm water
 6 to 8 cups flour
 1 tsp. salt
 1/2 pound raisins, cut
 1/2 pound currants
 1/4 pound citron, chopped
 1/2 cup almonds, sliced and blanched
 Scald two cups of the milk and let cool. Add the dissolved yeast cake, 3 cups of flour and the salt. Mix well. Cover and set aside to rise in a warm place, over night. In the morning, scald the other cup of milk and add the butter and stir until melted. Combine with the yeast mixture and add the sugar and the balance of the flour, kneading the dough well, until it is no longer sticky. Use more flour if necessary. Combine the fruit and sprinkle with some flour and add to the dough, mixing well. Cover and let rise again until double in bulk. Shape in small loaves, place in small pans, and sprinkle with the sliced almonds. Let rise for 2 hours. Bake in a moderate oven (400° F.) for 40 minutes.

JOY IN COOKING!

Have you found it? Maybe you are one of those persons who doesn't enjoy cooking. If you don't enjoy good food or members of your family are not food conscious it will be hard for you to work up real enthusiasm over the job.

There are people who are real artists in the kitchen. They enjoy preparing food, making it look beautiful and serving it well. Perhaps they have had to cultivate this attitude in the kitchen. Many homemakers leave meal planning until the moment they walk into the kitchen to get a meal and are in too big a hurry to give that extra touch that makes a meal a good one. Happiness is the result of doing something well, and you will not find joy in cooking unless you take time for the necessary preparations that it takes to turn out good food.

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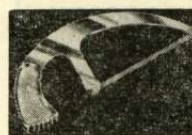
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 I'll have you for my friend.

—Anon.



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Dwight Morrow once wrote to his son: "The world is divided into people who do things and people who get the credit. Try, if you can, to belong to the first class. There's far less competition."

DOROTHY HAS MOVED

Dear Friends:

Tonight I am writing to you from my kitchen table as usual, but in different surroundings. Three weeks ago we moved from our little house on the hill to the Johnson home place. What I really should say is that we are in the process of moving. Since our two houses are just a mile apart, and since it wasn't essential that we move everything out at one time, we moved all the essential furniture in one day so that we could start staying here, and as I have had time I have sorted and packed boxes and brought them down in the car. In that way I have been able to put everything away in its place as I moved it and we haven't had to live in a house that was all torn up. By the end of this week we should have everything moved and in one house. Another family wants to move right into the little house on the hill, so it won't be empty for long.

Margery and Martin came to spend a week-end with us right after we moved. The Saddle Club rode out the Sunday they were here and we were so glad they got to see all the beautiful horses and enjoy the covered-dish dinner with us.

Kristin and I drove to Shenandoah one day last week, starting right after school, so that we could spend a day with Don and Mary Beth while they were there. We are expecting Juliana this Thursday to spend a few days vacation with us. This is the week-end of the State Teachers meeting in Des Moines and for the past few years Juliana has spent her vacation from school here. Mother and Dad plan to drive up for the day on Sunday and take Juliana home with them.

When we came home from Shenandoah I brought a lot of tulip bulbs with me and one of the nice warm days we had last week I spent the day in the yard setting them out. I still have some more to plant and am hoping we will have a few more nice days before the ground freezes so that I can get them all into the ground before the snow flies. We had a few skiffs of snow here yesterday and the day before but just little flurries, off and on.

Frank has been awfully busy with the harvesting. He hopes to have all the corn in the cribs by the end of this week. Our corn is awfully good this year, the best yield we have had for several years. Our beans have turned out very well too, so I guess we can't find a thing to complain about.

Frank and I spent today in the timber. It was so windy and cold that he decided rather than pick corn we would get some hickory wood cut. Over a week ago a friend of ours from Chariton called and asked if we could get him some hickory logs for his fireplace but Frank has just been too busy to take time off to get any wood in. So we thought today would be a good time to get the hickory. We found a nice sheltered spot where the wind wasn't too bad; and where there were several hickory trees within a few feet of each other and just spent the day right there.



Mary Beth Driftmier, our son Don's wife, reading the Christmas Story to Kristin and Alison, two of her recently acquired nieces.

We have two chicken houses here, a small one and a large one. Since we got our pullets real late we kept our old hens so that we would have some eggs. Today we got rid of the hens and so tonight after supper Kristin and Frank and I had the job of moving the pullets from the small hen house into the large one. It isn't a hard job, but it certainly is a noisy one.

Kristin has been busy with her school work. She leaves so early in the morning and gets home so late in the evening that we really don't see much of her except on week-ends. School children in Chariton have been collecting pencils this past week to send to school children in Korea. Kristin's room has been having a contest to see who could bring the most pencils. Instead of asking for treats on Halloween, she asked for old pencils. Tonight at 4:00 o'clock was the deadline and she and Lois Jean had turned in 367 pencils. They will know in the morning who won.

I go to my first parent-teacher conference for this year, tomorrow afternoon. Kristin has been very fond of her teacher and was terribly unhappy when she came home the other day and said that Mrs. Ranshaw was resigning because of ill health. The children took up a collection and bought her a lovely gift and gave it to her last Friday because they couldn't wait to give it to her at a little farewell party they are having for her this week.

The new bridge is all finished and I was the first one to drive across it. The gravel is supposed to be put on the road sometime in the next two weeks. That was the only sad thing about moving. After waiting all these years for a good road past our door we move back onto a dirt road just a half mile from it. But so many other problems have been solved by the move that it more than compensates for the road. First and foremost is that Frank is closer to his stock and his work. This house is very well built, in excellent condition, and is completely modern. It has been a great joy to have hot and cold running water.

Well, Kristin and Frank have been in bed for hours, so I must bank the fires and say good night. Until next month . . . Sincerely, Dorothy



GOOD NEIGHBORS

By Gertrude Hayzlett

A short time ago I was in Shenandoah visiting with Leanna, and we were comparing notes on Iowa and California. I mentioned how many people said they were sure they couldn't like California because there was no difference between summer and winter, and Christmas in summer just couldn't be right. So Leanna suggested that I tell you what Christmas in California is to me.

The climate is different, of course. As I write this, in October, there is a distinct nip in the air and the deciduous trees are shedding their leaves so fast that it will be no time at all till they are entirely bare. But, there are a good many trees that keep their leaves all the year; and when you are getting snow and zero weather, we are getting rains that wash off the foliage and bring the poinsettias into full bloom and redden the holly berries.

For me, the first really Christmassy thing is preparing the last Good Neighbor Guide for the year, with all the news about shutin people that I can cram into its sixteen pages. These shutins love to get letters, and a little gift makes a red-letter day for them. If you can find it in your heart to do something for one or a dozen of them, write me for a copy of the Guide. My address is 685 Thayer Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif. This is ready to mail in November.

It is also in November that the stores start putting out their special holiday stock and decorating their windows with bells and shiny balls and all the things one connects with Christmas. By the first of December there are decorated trees everywhere and every shopping center has grown festoons of evergreen or shiny ropes or some other eye-catching thing across the streets and from lamp post to lamp post, and mingled with the swish of traffic and the voices of happy people is the tinkle of the Salvation Army Lassies' bells and the sound of coins dropping in their little kettles. The Christmas spirit is the same as in Iowa or wherever you may be.

The closer it comes to the 25th, the more secrets are in the air. Radio and television do their share, with carols and Christmas programs. Homes vie with one another to see which can put out the most interesting and colorful decorations, and one of the high spots of the season is the evening taken for a drive over the whole city to see and compare the displays. This usually ends at the Observatory, on a high hill, where one gets a view of the whole city with its millions of lights. It looks like a huge Christmas tree — if one could imagine a tree that would cover 452 square miles, as Los Angeles does.

Hollywood Boulevard is a *must* in early December. The business part of the boulevard is decorated in a most

spectacular way, and each night Santa Claus leads a long parade down its length. There are lots of floats with movie stars on them, and more people come to see the parade than most of us see in the rest of the year all put together. Santa is always a friendly soul, and the kiddies get the thrill of their lives when he throws them a gift or sometimes takes some of them on the float with him.

Another evening must be spent driving down Christmas Tree Lane. This is a two-mile street that starts high on the mountain and goes gradually down to level ground, with its whole length lined with evergreen trees. These were planted many years ago and have grown to immense heights. Each year they are decorated with colored lights and during the Christmas season the street lights are turned off and the street is lighted only by these tree lights. So many people love the drive that it has become necessary to make it a one-way street. Boy Scouts direct cars up the hill on other streets, then when they turn on this street they must turn off their lights and drive slowly down the Lane. Going down that quiet street, with the colored lights on the trees seeming to mingle with the low-hanging stars brings one pretty close to the real meaning of Christmas.

To me, the peak of the whole season is the Christmas Eve service at the church. We usually have our family get-together and dinner early the evening of the 24th, then about half past ten we go to church for a service of carols and the lovely Christmas story from the Bible. As we go into the church, every one is given a pure white candle. At the end of the service, the lights are all turned out, and while the great organ plays softly, the ushers carry their candles to the altar and light them from the candle the minister is holding. Then they light the candles held by the person in the aisle seat of each row; these in turn light the candles of their next neighbor and so on until every candle in the church is lit, and we all sing Silent Night. Then each holding his lighted candle, carries it out in to the night, still singing. That is Christmas.

COOKING FROZEN MEAT

Do you thaw it first? Some say it must be thawed, others say it shouldn't be. Some are never sure what to do. As for me, I think the meat that has been thawed before cooking does not have as good a flavor. No thawing means less shrinkage and higher food value. Did you ever notice the juices that you lose, especially when the meat is thawed at room temperature? These juices contain high nutritive values—niacin, riboflavin and thiamin, all parts of the needed B complex vitamins. An article I read recently said that steak weighing two pounds when frozen lost 1/2 pound in being thawed. Of course it will take a little longer to cook it in the frozen state, but if you want to get all the food value possible and serve better tasting meat, consider cooking meats from the solid, frozen state. This is especially true of roasts.

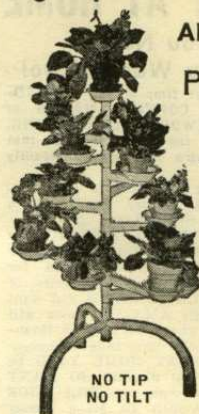
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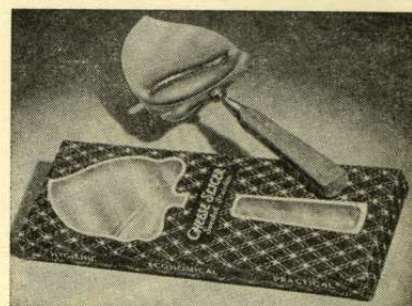


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FOR YOUR HOLIDAY FUN

By Mabel Nair Brown

How many song titles can you count
while this story is read?

There's A Song In The Air Story.

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear, Once In Royal David's City long ago on *The First Noel*. *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night, The Star Of The East* appeared in the sky and the shepherds heard *Angels From The Realms Of Glory*. One of them said, "*Hark The Herald Angels Sing, There's A Song In The Air*," They all listened again to the angels' song, and then hastened away to find *The Dear Little Stranger in the Little Town of Bethlehem*. *O, Holy Night*, for on that same night *The Three Kings Of The Orient* were seeing the *Star Of The East* and they, too, journeyed to *The Holy City Of Bethlehem*, bearing gifts.

O Come All Ye Faithful and this year as the Christmas bells ring out *From Every Spire On Christmas Eve* let us think again of that *Silent Night* and *As With Gladness Men Of Old* came to the *Babe In The Manger* with gifts, let us, too, give generously of our gifts, our time, and our love to bring *Joy To The World*.

Christmas Cutouts

Pass out squares or whole sheets of construction paper (red, green and white may be the colors of the papers) to each guest, along with a pair of scissors. In a allotted time each guest is to cut out a Christmas cutout or silhouette, one requirement being that the paper must be folded at least once. Thus some will cut out trees, others angels, snowmen, Santa Claus etc. Give a tree ornament to the person voted as having the best cutout.

Charades For Christmas Parties

1. A man buying his wife a Christmas gift.
2. A man trying to wrap a Christmas package with a small piece of paper.
3. Trimming the Christmas tree.
4. Mother baking Christmas cookies.
5. Mother making a Mince Pie.

Christmas Gifts

Write the names of the guests on separate slips of paper. The leader of the games holds these slips and calls the names one by one. The game is to see who can name a Christmas gift using the initials given on the slip, as Grace Brown—gold bracelet, Mary Smith—maroon sweater, etc. The one who first calls the name of the gift gets the slip. The one who acquires the most slips wins the game.

"TIZ"

You will think this a funny name for a game. On a tray arrange a collection of Christmas goodies, one of each thing. It might have on it an apple, an orange, a walnut, a cookie, some pieces of Christmas candy, and a stuffed date. One of the children leaves the room and those remaining name one of the articles on the tray "Tiz". When the one who left the room comes back he may have anything he takes from the tray until he picks up the one named "Tiz". Then he has to stop and he is out of the game.



Martin's visit to the Johnson farm means a long anticipated ride on Champ, Kristin's Pony.

A friend in Baxter, Iowa, asks for the little birthday wish Margery used to say on the radio.

"Many happy returns of the day of thy birth,

May sunshine and gladness be given,
And may the dear Father prepare us
on earth

For a beautiful birthday in Heaven."

(Continued from Page 7, Col. 3)

bazaar these days, and I, for one, will be glad when it's over! This year I was made chairman of the mincemeat project, and it was up to me to round up ingredients and workers to turn out 200 pints of delicious pie material. If you have any comparable responsibility you might be interested to know that I decided at the very outset not to do any telephoning whatsoever. Instead, I wrote cards to each and every person stating the ingredients I hoped she could furnish and the exact time when her help and food would be needed. It's easy to forget a telephone call for something that will take place a week or two weeks hence, but the printed word in front of you is another matter. It's a job to write the cards, to be sure, but I think it pays real dividends.

My cookie dough is ready to handle now so I must be off to the kitchen. Juliana will enjoy these cookies tonight when we sit down after supper and pick up our homework. My! I'm so glad that I have a daughter!

Warmest wishes for a happy holiday from the Vernesses—Lucile, Russell and Juliana.

IMMORTAL CRAFTSMAN

If we work upon marble, it will perish;

If we work upon brass, time will efface it;

If we rear temples, they will crumble into dust;

But if we work upon immortal souls,
If we imbue them with principles,
With the just fear of the Creator and love of fellow men,

We engrave on those tablets something which will brighten all eternity.

—Daniel Webster



Gary Alexander Overstreet, lively young son of Gordon and Mona Overstreet, and the first grandchild of our neighbors next door, wishes you a Merry Christmas.

A HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS

By Gladys Niece Templeton

Are you among the throngs crowding the stores a few days before Christmas, frantically searching for something new in decorations? Perhaps you are wanting ideas for table and window treatment, clever door decorations and unique candles.

The entire family enjoys and should have a part in such preparation. Here is where the mother uses her ingenuity.

First let us consider the table since it brings the family together more often than any other part of the home. Formal and conventional decorations are splendid but leave those for the years when there are no young children in the family. If you would add to the happiness of the entire family throughout the season, leave the table decorations to the children, the mother suggesting and providing the materials. Perhaps a loaf-sugar house built on a mirror for a centerpiece, the roof made of snow (cotton) covered cardboard. Trees can be made from tiny bits of evergreen stuck into foil-covered spools and placed about on the mirror; cover the frame with cotton or artificial snow. Tiny tots can do all of this with a minimum of direction.

Another old but loved centerpiece is the gum-drop tree; even Grandma may enjoy making this creation, variations differing according to the amount of imagination used. A properly shaped branch of barberry shrub, painted with aluminum, and decorated with colorful gum drops, makes a delightful centerpiece.

Previously pressed leaves or those cut from foil, when scattered about on the linen cloth, makes an attractive table. Children enjoy color and may use too much of it but let them decide . . . they are young such a little while. Little folks love to help in the preparations so give them a share in as many as possible. When preparing foods, little fingers know just where to place the nuts, cherries, raisins and colored sugars. Each meal shall be a very special event if the child has had a part in the preparation, whether it be the food or the table decorations.

Window treatments offer endless possibilities. Perhaps your home is large enough to carry out a theme, if not, one window may be the inter-

est-center. Surely nothing can be more effective than a lighted candle in every window.

Along with the Christmas preparation do not forget the story hour, whether your children are large or small. There is a wealth of material here but the best loved stories are the old ones which you never tire of hearing; the birth of the Christ Child from Luke, Christmas Carol, The Birds' Christmas Carol, The Little Mixer, This Is Christmas, Christmas In Many Lands are only a start. Your library or book mobile can supply your needs.

Christmas carols should have a time and place in every home even though there may be no musical instrument; the human voice requires no accompaniment, sing for the love of singing and learn the familiar carols as a family group. Its a wise mother who finds time to share these joys with her family.

CARE OF POINSETTIA AFTER BLOOMING

By February your Poinsettia is ready to rest. Put it in a dry, warm cellar after first removing to another pot any ferns that may have been planted with it. Let the Poinsettia remain bone dry until settled warm weather—June first is about right.

At this time, it should be cut back to the place where you would like to have it branch and repot it in good rich soil arranged for good drainage. Set in semi-shaded place and start watering gradually. The tops you cut off will take root in moist sand and will also bloom by Christmas.

Bring Poinsettias in ahead of other House Plants as they are very sensitive to cold.

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FROM MY LETTER BASKET

By Leanna

QUES.—“Every year I receive Christmas cards from people I did not send a card to and am always very much embarrassed. What should one do in a case of this kind?”—Nebr.

ANS.—Of course you would put them on your Christmas card list for the next year and in the meantime send them a “Happy New Year” card or write a personal note of New Year’s Greeting.

QUES.—“Some one told me it showed lack of respect if I did not seal my Christmas card envelope and use a three cent stamp. What do you do?”—Minn.

ANS.—I use a three cent stamp when I have written a personal message on a Christmas card as the postal laws require. If there is no written message I leave the envelope unsealed and use the two cent stamp. Do try to get your cards soon so you will have time to add your personal greeting. I am really disappointed if I don’t find this, especially if the card is from some friend I hear from only at Christmas time.

QUES.—“We have a family of four children. They are grown now and in homes of their own. My husband feels that they should all come home on Christmas Day and have their Christmas tree here. I think that they should have their own trees. What do you think?”—Mo.

ANS.—Since our children are in homes of their own we have established this custom. We have a very simple Christmas Eve supper at one of the homes. Then all come to our house for a tree where they have the gifts from the grandparents and open the boxes that have come in the mail from relatives. Then on Christmas morning each family may enjoy their very own Christmas tree, a memory that their children will carry with them all through life.

QUES.—“Last year I sent my sister a lovely Christmas gift and don’t know to this day whether she received it or not! I don’t like to embarrass her by asking about it. How could I find out if she got it?”—Mo.

ANS.—This should remind us to acknowledge gifts as soon as we can. In this case our friend could mention in a letter that she hoped her sister enjoyed the gift she sent her last year, that it is always hard to find something that can be sent safely and that if she received this year’s gift in fine shape let her know.

QUES.—“Leanna, do you think it is right to tell your husband what you want him to give you for Christmas?”—Nebr.

ANS.—For me, that would take away the excitement I experience wondering *what* is in that carefully wrapped box under the Christmas

tree. I must be perfectly honest with you and tell you I *do* indulge in a little hinting! “You would get better coffee if I had a new automatic coffee pot.” or “Do you remember the Christmas that one of my gifts was a standing order at the florist shop for fresh flowers every week during the winter?” Usually it is something that I have mentioned and then forgotten that I find under the tree.

QUES.—“Our club has decided that instead of giving each other gifts we will remember someone who might not have a very happy Christmas. Have you any suggestions as to whom we can give these gifts?”—Iowa.

ANS.—I liked the plan used by a club group last year. Since the gifts we were to exchange were not to exceed \$1.00 in value, we each gave that amount of money to a committee appointed by the club president. These ladies bought and beautifully wrapped presents for each of the elderly people in one of our nursing homes. The gifts were distributed from their Christmas tree and brought them a great deal of happiness. One of Margery’s clubs plans to take baskets of gifts to two of our Iowa state institutions.

THOU SHALT FIND HIM

By Mildred Dooley Cathcart

It would be a sorrowful Christmas season indeed, if in all our celebration we failed to find the Christ-Child. In all of our homes let us seek Christ first and let all our other activities be secondary.

There is something inspiring about getting out our creche and singing carols as we place the figures carefully in their respective places.

Children like the things they can make by themselves and the type of activity where they can take the initiative. So why not let them make a creche of their very own?

A cigar box with the lid propped open at an angle is ideal. Paint the outside of the box white and inside dark blue. Younger children may cut the figures from heavy cardboard. Older ones may make the figures from pipe stem cleaners and use bits of discarded silk and other material to fashion the clothing. A very tiny match box may be used for the manger. Real straw can be used. The Wise Men may wear much richer clothing than the shepherds and tiny beads or sequins may be sewed on their turbans to resemble jewels. Tiny sheep covered with cotton, and other animals are near the manger. The angels may have bits of Christmas tinsel on their wings and about their heads.

When your creche is completed it will be very pretty placed in a surrounding of evergreen branches to which shiny Christmas tree balls are tied. Perhaps you can place your creche in such a place that you can have a lighted star above it.

Each night you can sit beside your creche and read the Christmas story and sing carols. Then you can feel again the “Peace on Earth” of which the angels sang.

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If you have something to sell try this “Little Ad” Department. Over 125,000 people read this magazine every month. Rate 10¢ a word, payable in advance. When counting words count each initial in name and address. Rejection rights reserved. Your ad must reach us by the 1st of the month preceding date of issue.

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CARD READING (By Mail) Your past, present and future. 10 questions answered \$1.00. George 3033K South Homan Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

WANTED: Hand Quilting, very neat stitches. Anna Hannaman, Marion, Kansas.

BABY SHOES PROCESSED—Glass or bronze finish. Choice of mounts \$5 to \$18. Jean Wiig, Hamburg, Iowa.

PHOTO POST CARDS enlarged from any size negative. Best quality. 15 for \$1. Color Craft Studio, Danbury, Iowa.

CROCHETED HAIRPIN, OR TATting pillow slip edgings 42" \$1.00 pair, any color. Mrs. Edna Sutterfield, Craig, Missouri.

"BOOKS! NOVELTIES! Money-making opportunities! Free lists!" Keith Bugbee, 4224 North 58th St., Lincoln 7, Nebraska.

EARN CHRISTMAS MONEY FAST AND EASY—making and selling 3" Chenille Santa Claus, one made, with instructions to assemble eleven yourself. \$1.00 postpaid. Novelcrafts, Box 565 K.K., Chicago 90, Illinois.

LINEN HANKY'S crocheted edge corner. Lovebirds. Peacock. Butterfly. Roses. Pansy's \$1.00. Pineapple Chair set \$3.50. Surprise Package \$5.00. Emma Jackson, Harwood, Missouri.

BEAUTIFUL BABY GIFT. White crocheted bib with blue edge and pink ribbons, \$1.00 Mrs. Nelson Vlieger, Hospers, Iowa.

BEAUTIFUL ORGANDY party aprons \$1.50 - \$2.00 lace trim, percales \$1.00. Mrs. Donald Wubben, Titonka, Iowa.

MY CHOICEST PRINT APRONS \$1.25, 6 for \$6.75. Bib Aprons \$1.25, large \$1.50. Towel Apron \$1.00. Pretty Organdy Aprons \$1.50. Kathleen Yates, Queen City, Missouri.

CLEVER BORDER PRINT HALF APRONS \$1.00. Turkish towel aprons, print trim \$1.00. Beautiful chenille corsages 60¢. Nellie Neely, Carlisle, Iowa.

10-IN. DOILIES, PANSY, ROSE, DAISY, SNOWFLAKE \$1.00 each. Hot pads 85¢ each. Ad good for the year. Mrs. Frank Brabec, Brainard, Nebr.

CHARMING CRINOLINE LADY bath towel sets \$2.25. R. Kieh, 2917 Fourth N. W., Canton, Ohio.

SEWING WANTED: House dresses and Childrens dresses—\$1.25. Or I will make two for \$2.00. Barbara Rall, 1618 Main St. Joseph, Missouri.

HEALTH BOOK by retired nurse, Arthritis "flare ups" bloat, overweight, food allergy. 50¢. Mrs. Walt Pitzer, Shell Rock, Iowa.

CUTE WRIST PINCUSHION 50¢. Novelty washcloth doggies 60¢, tatted edge linen hankies 85¢. Martha Klinehart, Nashua, Iowa.

CROCHETED — Pineapple vanity sets, white \$3.00. Handkerchiefs linen pineapple corner, edge \$1.00. Powder puffs, crocheted top 50¢. Irene Timmerman, Route 5, Decatur, Illinois.

CHRISTMAS PACKAGES for the children. Registered Weimaraner pups ready to go, top hunting stock. Please write or call. Phone 26. Toni Patterson, Minden, Iowa.

CROCHETED ROSE HEXAGON POTHOLDERS \$1.50 pr. Pansy, rose or forget-me-not doilies \$3.00. Chair sets \$5. Turtle wash cloths 45¢. Mrs. Wright, 8106 Rector, Berkeley, Missouri.

CROCHETERS WANTED. Good pay. Fast work, simple stitches. Materials furnished. Information 25¢. Vivien Maxwell, 1415-K Glenarm Place, Denver 2, Colorado.

HANDKERCHIEFS, Cotton floral, crochet edge 50¢; white linen painted, beaded butterfly in corner, crochet edge 75¢, cotton 50¢. State color. Vera's, Nelson, Nebr.

CROCHETED POT HOLDERS—35¢ and linen hanky's—lace edge—50¢ each. Mrs. C. W. Carlson, R. 2, Humboldt, Iowa.

CHRISTMAS CARDS 21 for \$1.00. Blanche Dvorak, Plymouth, Iowa.

BLACK WALNUT MEATS — Extra large — \$1.25 pint. Mrs. Chris Rasmussen, 2019 So. 6th St., Harlan, Iowa.

FLOWER GARDEN QUILT TOPS and hand quilted quilts. Margaret Miller, St. Marys, Iowa.

LADY DRIVERS—Don't Get Stuck With a Dead Battery this Winter. Get "NU-LIFE" for Old Batteries. NU-LIFE makes Cars Easier to Start. Easy To Use—Only One Treatment Needed. Money Back Guarantee. Only \$1 postpaid. **MARTIN ENTERPRISES, SHENANDOAH, IOWA.**

QUALITY LEATHERS, HANDTOOLED— 11" zipper bags \$15.00; Billfolds \$8.50 Tax included. C. & G. Homecrafts, Burr Oak, Kansas.

QUILT PIECES—Large size, fast colors. 1½ pounds plus patterns and quilting chart \$1.25. Hester's Remnants, Box 261, Tusculum, Ala.

IDEAL SHOWER GIFT for the new Baby, handmade shoes of high quality felt, leatherette insoles, silken tie strings, decoration on toes, plain or contrasting colors. White, Pink, Blue, Yellow, Pastel Green—\$1.60. Satisfaction guaranteed. Laura Douglas, Emerson, Iowa.

FOR SALE: Nylon Corsages \$1.00, Brooches 50¢, Earrings 50¢. All colors. No orders less than \$1.00. Hazel Dorrell, Winterset, Iowa.

PERSONALIZED STATIONERY—Your Name and Address Printed in Royal Blue Ink on 50 sheets of Rippletone Bond and 50 matching Envelopes (Monarch Size) only \$2 postpaid. Order Now for Xmas. M & M Press, Shenandoah, Iowa.

\$4.00 WORTH of crocheted handmades for \$2.00, \$12.00 worth for \$6. On sale while they last. Postage extra. Mary Klopff, Elizabeth, Illinois.

WOVEN DOILIES OR PILLOW TOPS. Write for prices. Irene Adamson, 1101 E. Summit, Creston, Iowa.

FOR SALE: Compete 5 piece outfit for doll, \$1.50. State height and head size. Mrs. Ruth Wessendorf, Storm Lake, Iowa.

PARAKEETS: PUPPIES: FARM RAISED: Pomeranians Champion lines \$35.00 up, registered: Spitz: (Studs at service; Pomeranians; Toy foxterrier; wire foxterrier; Spitz; all registered.) Book Christmas orders. Enclose stamp for reply. Visitors Saturdays NOT SUNDAYS. Zante's Kennel, Monroe, Iowa.

PAINTED PILLOW CASES CROCHETED EDGES \$3.75, Painted dresser scarfs lace edges \$1.50, Painted tea towels 7—\$3.50, Bath towels with crocheted baskets \$1.85. Laura Fuss, 1920 "O" St., Ord, Nebraska.

XMAS GIFTS—Doilies on hand 75¢ to \$3.00. Pillowslips Iris Rose \$5.00. Vanity sets \$2.00 up. Fay Mullanix, Worthington, Mo.

PHONOGRAPH RECORDS. Latest hits, 45 and 78 RPM 4 for \$1.00. Slightly used. Send for free list. Maureen Loots, Carroll, Ia.

SEQUIN NECKLACE & EARRING SETS, all colors \$1.25. Elvia Christensen, 707 Market St., Audubon, Iowa.

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS: Fibre Flower and Earrings 98¢ set, Rose or Carnation Corsages 98¢, Holiday Corsages 59¢, Earrings 49¢ pair, Roses \$3.50 dozen. Order before December 15th. Gwen Churchill, Monroe, Iowa.

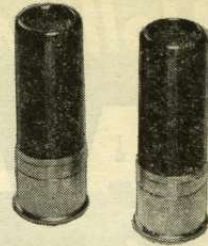
BEAUTIFUL CROCHETED EDGE HANKIES ready now. Choice Colors or White, 75¢ each. Mrs. Paul Kaiser, Preston, Nebr.

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WINTER DOOR AND WINDOW COVERS. Large sheets heavy polyethylene, 36 x 78", two for \$1.00. (Useful for protecting crib or child's mattress). 3 DAMPENING BAGS, 18 x 36", \$1.00. 8 Big TURKEY BAGS, assorted, \$1.00. SHREDDED CELLULOSE for Christmas decoration, red or green, small bale \$1.00. POLY BAG CO., Box 25, Wyatt Park Sta., St. Joseph, Mo.

for Holiday Gifts



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For the man who loves to hunt, here's a sure-fire way to tickle his fancy. Exact duplicates of 12 gauge shotgun shells, 2½" high. Tops are plastic and base is solid brass, heavy enough to prevent tipping. Holiday packaged in clear lucite gift box. Shakers in Remington Green or Winchester Red.

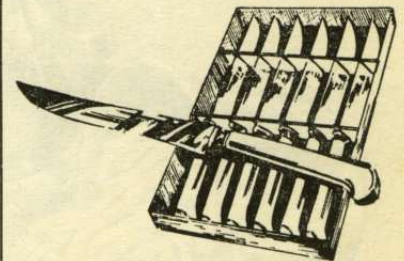
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Roll it away and listen to its cheery tinkle. Will keep a tot amused for hours and the music is so pleasant mother won't be irritated. Safe and sturdy, it is made of colorful plastic. An excellent companion for a tiny tot.

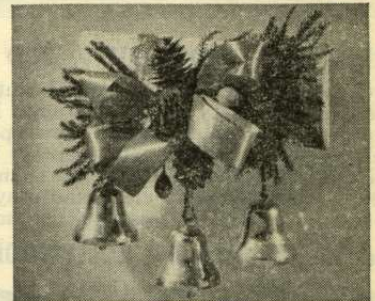
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Gleaming stainless steel serrated blades in attractive ivory-toned "pistol grip" handles. An ideal gift for friends or business associates. It's a terrific value and it's guaranteed! Supply is limited so rush in your order. Gift boxed.

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Gay tinkling bells to welcome your holiday guests. 3 highly polished brass bells hanging from pine cone decorated 6" long birch log, trimmed with sprigs of greenery, red ribbon and berries. Suction cup attaches firmly to door. No nails or hooks needed.

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Now you can prepare the most beautiful, healthful foods with ease, speed, safety, and economy. Makes wonderful waffle-potatoes, tossed salad, golden brown potato chips; chops onions, peels apples, crumbs bread, prepares baby foods, health foods, and vegetable juices. Slices faster than electric machines costing \$200 or more. Easy to clean and easy to operate. Safe enough for a child to use. Recipe book included.



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Requires only normal washing care. Heavy die-cast highly polished aluminum construction with triple-plated 20 gauge solid steel cutters will always stay bright.

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Built for a lifetime of service. There's nothing to go wrong or get out of order. No bolts, screws, or clamps; easy to assemble. Cutters never need sharpening.

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Cuts a gallon of potato chips per minute—cole slaw for 4 in 10 seconds—tossed salad for a family of 6 in less than a minute—saves many hours in canning.

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Heavy die-cast aluminum construction body highly polished for beauty; plus steel triple-plated cutting cones will give a lifetime of service without rusting.

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