

Annual Homemakers Christmas Program Attracts Many

By Mrs. Charles McSparran
Farm Feature Writer

"Make Your Own Merry Christmas" was the topic Monday at the annual Homemakers Christmas program at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, by the noted horticulturist, lecturer, writer and flower arranger, Mrs. Anne Wertsner Wood of Swarthmore, Pa.

Speaking to an audience of some 325, mostly rural homemakers, in the afternoon and to approximately 150 again in the evening, she held the audience spellbound as she quickly made about 25 arrangements and displayed 15 prearranged Christmas decorations.

Mrs. Doris Thomas, Home Economist from the Lancaster County Agricultural Extension Service, arranged the program and introduced the participants. Taking part on the morning program was Mrs.

Bruce Greiner who gave specific directions and demonstrated how to make paper angels that could be used in arrangements or as place cards.

Mrs. Daniel Will, Mount Joy, a member of a craft group from Farm Women Society 4, demonstrated making clusters of wax grapes and Mrs. Elmer Schroll, 765 Centerville Road, also a member of Farm Women Society 4, showed how to make holiday arrangements and gift items from normally discarded items. She used egg cartons, scraps of wall panelling, ivy, faded artificial flowers, into which she made a scrap book cover, candle holder, paper weight, a wreath, an ivy tree and a back porch light shade.

Mrs. Richard Lefever, Quarryville RD1, a member of Farm Women Society 17, demonstrated making fondant candy and coating it and gave many helpful suggestions for success in candy making. She included recipes for and had a display of 10 different kinds of candy.

The afternoon speaker, Mrs. Wood, a graduate of the School of Horticulture, Amber, Pa., and head of the Floriculture staff there for six years, is a professional in her field and has traveled extensively in this country and abroad. In her travels she has acquired interesting ceramic pieces and dried nature specimens which she incorporated in her arrangements.

She emphasized the use of greens in arrangements. She suggested removing a few



Mrs. Anne W. Wood, professional horticulturist and arranger, stands among several of her Christmas arrangements and is holding a pine cone doll and red

candle arrangement. Some of her dried ferns, yara, mullen, pearly everlasting and colored grasses can be seen in the arrangements.

leaves from holly to make the berries more prominent.

She prefers first privet canes, secondly willow branches to wire for use as a base for wreaths. Strip the leaves from them, cut in desired lengths and bend into shape while they are green and pliable and as they dry they remain very strong.

She also prefers florist's twine to wire to fasten decorations to the wreaths.

She used such salvaged items as egg carton sections, tin cans, flash bulbs, safety match packets, bottles, scraps of carpet and broken colored glass and also used many household articles such as a dust pan, aquarium, trays, table mats and goblets.

Mrs. Wood said, "No decoration need take a lot of time nor a lot of expense.

"If you use the right kind of

greens they will last. Yew and boxwood will not dry out. Keep them in the open. Greens can be kept in the freezer until needed.

"Take leaves off chrysanthemums to preserve their freshness and use other greens with them."

She advised, "Use something dull, something shiny and something light — remember this for arrangements. Freeze candles and they will last longer. Use styrofoam candle anchors to hold candles to prevent fires."

To preserve greens such as palms, fern fronds and leaves she recommends placing them in one part glycerine or Prestone and two parts water. Another timely tip she threw out to the audience was to use Dif



Mrs. David Rohrer, Farm Women Society 18, attends their bazaar table at Homemakers Day.

or alcohol to take pitch from your hands when working with greens.

The consensus of opinion was that it was a day profitably spent as homemakers in attendance from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. not only saw craft demonstrations but viewed many fine and unique Christmas displays arranged by several Farm Women and Homemaker groups.

Eight Farm Women groups had tables of Christmas bazaar items for sale. These items consisted of varied home-made foods such as cookies, fruit cake, pop corn, candy, cup cakes, pies and sandwiches.

Also all kinds of Christmas decorations and materials to make arrangements, hand-made gift articles and flowers were for sale.



Mrs. Daniel Will, Mount Joy, displays wax grapes and a decorated egg she made as part of her demonstration and the exhibit of Farm Women Society 4.

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