

How-To Explained at Homemakers Christmas Program

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Farm Feature Writer

The annual Homemakers Christmas Program, arranged by the Home Economists of the Lancaster County Extension staff, was held Tuesday, November 28 at the Farm and Home Center. It was attended by approximately 300 women for the daytime program and 100 in the evening.

Mrs. Edward S. Bloom, Wilmington, Delaware, spoke at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on the theme "How To Do It for Christmas" and demonstrated how to make some 30 arrangements. Using materials at hand she fashioned a dried herb wreath to hang in your kitchen and lend a nice aroma. In using candles she cautioned not to place a lit candle any closer than eight inches to greens.

She advised not using more than three kinds of greens in an arrangement. To keep greens alive she cut the greens on an angle and inserted them in wet sphagnum moss held in place with rat wire. For greens she used yew, ivy, spruce and pine.

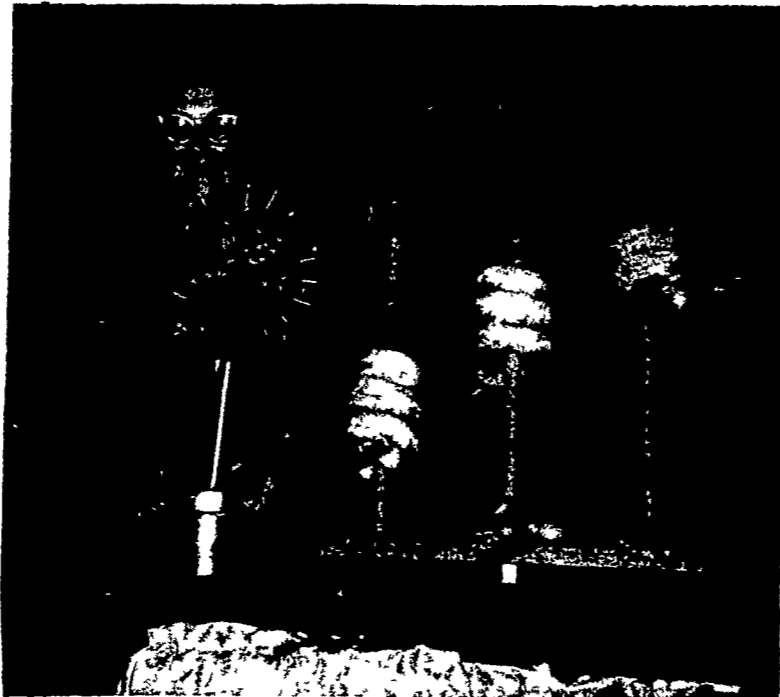
She made use of dried and artificial flowers, artificial and real fruit, candles, ribbons, birds, rope, gum balls, teasel, milk weed pods, pine cones and drift wood. Using a candle mold, a lantern, a lamp and a dipper she made some very attractive arrangements.

As a base for some of her creations she used plywood, wire forms and grape vines. She said there is no harm done to grape vines to prune them after freezing weather and she made a very unusual wreath with a bundle of grape vines decorated with a large cluster of artificial grapes and a few grape leaves.

She fashioned a topiary tree, fastening gum tree balls and round toothpicks on a styrofoam ball mounted in a pot with a dowel rod. She sprayed it gold and tied a big red ribbon bow below the ball.



Arrangements made by Mrs. Bloom are teasels mounted on a Styrofoam cone are held in a flower pot with a dowel pin and sprayed gold. Red bows decorate the tree. A pine cone wreath sprayed 30 times with white paint is anchored on a pale blue tray or metal lid. Straw wired to a wire base was decorated with wheat and a green burlap ribbon.



Mrs. Edward S. Bloom, Wilmington, Del., speaking for the annual Homemakers Christmas Program, shows a topiary tree and another arrangement to hold doughnuts or cookies.

A festive arrangement to greet guests was made by placing three dowel rods about one inch in diameter and cut about 18 inches long on a cross arm, painting it red and decorating each dowel rod with a sprig of artificial fruit, then placing doughnuts above the fruit. Cookies shaped like doughnuts could also be used. One simple arrangement was a fresh pineapple with a red felt turkey head covering the base end.

Captain Ernest Woerner, Lancaster City Fire Department, spoke on "Fire Prevention for the Holidays." He gave nine basic rules to follow to have a safe holiday season:

1. Select a fresh cut live tree, bring it in the house December 24 and only keep it about a week, make a fresh cut on the butt of the trunk marking an X at the base of the trunk. Place it in plenty of water and replenish the water

- every day; 2. Make sure the lights are UL approved, check cords that they are not frayed; 3. Never put any real lighted candles on the tree; 4. Don't block any exit with the tree. Place away from all passage ways and anchor it well; 5. When leaving the house or retiring, make sure you put out any burning candles; 6. Have a huge box for gift wrappings and dispose of carefully; 7. Electric or battery operated candles are safer than regular candles; 8. Have lots of ash trays around for smokers; 9. Review your fire escapes. Make sure you have two ways out of each room. Don't go back in, once you're out of the house, in case of fire.

Miss Linda Lueck, assistant home economist from the Extension staff, demonstrated candle making using beeswax (8" x 16") honeycomb sheets in various colors. She explained that they are easier and less expensive to make and beeswax won't drip. Beeswax sheets are very pliable at room temperature.

She gave these directions: Place a ruler on the diagonal and using a pencil, lightly trace the angle from one corner to another. Using a small knife or scissors cut the wax along the marked line. Cut a piece of wicking the length of the sheet (16 inches) plus about one inch; place this wick one-fourth inch from the long straight edge of the beeswax; curl this one-fourth inch edge over the wicking to secure it. Continue to roll the wax over the enclosed wick, being careful to work from one end to the other so as to roll the sheet evenly. When entire sheet is rolled, simply mold the thick end together with slight finger pressure. If decorations, such as

sequins or glitter are desired, simply press them onto the wax, as the honeycomb has a natural adhesive quality. The candles she made were given as door prizes.

Miss Joan Lucas from the Extension staff showed a film on gift wrapping and spoke on "Selecting Toys for Christmas." She said questions to ask when selecting a toy are - does it help the child grow? Does it fit the child? Will it last? And is it safe?

Farm Women Societies 3, 4, 7,

18 and 22 had exhibit tables of decorations, gifts and foods for the holidays displayed in the Extension Training Center. Farm Women Society 18 also had a snack table for the convenience of women spending the day there.

Women from all over the county as well as a few from neighboring counties found their day well spent and went home with many ideas to make the holidays colorful and safe.



Miss Joan Lucas spoke on "Selecting Toys for Christmas." This display emphasizes the points suggested by Miss Lucas.



Farm Women Society 18 had a food stand which was patronized by ladies attending morning and afternoon program.

Toys That Teach

Toys and play materials educate. Toys help the child to control and direct his muscles, understand and imitate the activities in the world around him, and express his ideas and feelings.

To provide a wide range of experiences, play materials need to be varied in type. As you choose toys for Christmas gifts be sure you're not getting into a rut and choosing toys that are all for the same type of play. Carol Rothermel, Chester County Assistant Extension home economist, offers this list of the types of play children need for development and the kinds of toys that stimulate such play.

Active - Push and pull toys, wheel toys, games and gym equipment are typical playthings that aid in physical development.

Creative and manipulative - Construction toys, building blocks, drawing and painting

equipment and hobby kits aid creative play. This type of play is important because it teaches children how to use their hands and provides for the expression of ideas. It also frees the imagination, allows for the use of initiative, stimulates the powers of observation and develops resourcefulness.

Dramatic - Housekeeping equipment, train systems, dolls and dress-up costumes stimulate play. This type of play also encourages imaginative expression and helps the child learn, through imitating adult activities.

Social - Games in which children can take part are essential aids to social development. By sharing play activity, children learn how to get along with each other and acquire a basic understanding of good sportsmanship. They also learn how to concentrate and how to think quickly and accurately.