

Candles have special X-mas meanings



By JOYCE BUPP
York Co.
Feature Writer

YORK, Pa. - One of the cheeriest holiday symbols is the lighted candle. With meanings that have come down through the ages, candles evoke memories of long-ago days and a promise of the "Light of the World" to come.

Mrs. Sheila Arnold, former Extension home economist, spoke on the use of candles in decorating for Christmas during the recent York County Homemakers Holiday Seminar. Mrs. Arnold's hobby of candlemaking has grown into a small shop and home candle demonstrations.

The Festival of Hannukah, she said, was being celebrated at the time the Holy Family traveled to Bethlehem. Homes were decorated with the traditional candles, and Christians down through the

years have adapted those candlelights into symbolism tied to their own religious beliefs. She also explained that as the ages progressed, "Candle developments



lengthened days, allowing for evening visiting and enabling a mother to check her children at night." Today, candles have become a luxury item of a sort, adding romantic softness to our modern decors and

turning people's thoughts to a slower way of life.

In sixth century France and England, it was a custom to offer at religious shrines as many candles as it took to make the measure of a person's height for whom you were asking a favor. From this practice, came our phrase "measuring up."

At one time, auctions used to be measured by a candle's burning time. One wick was lit at the beginning of the bidding, and when the candle burned out, the last bid took the object.

Mrs. Arnold offered a number of safety precautions to be observed when burning candles during the holiday season.

Check all candles periodically! Never set candles under shelves or close to combustible materials. If dried materials are used in a candle arrangement, keep the material well away from the

flame. Novelty shaped candles will burn through quickly at narrow spots and should be watched accordingly. Protect tables from candle wax, oil, and coloring materials with a cardboard cut to fit or a



piece of felt tucked underneath.

Candles should be kept from drafts, which will make them burn unevenly and drop. If a hurricane lamp is placed over the candle, support the lamp from underneath so that a small amount of air can come under the glass, allowing the flame to "breathe."

Recycling old candles was another tip given by Mrs. Arnold. She suggested melting old candles, one color at a time, and layering

Xmas tree has interesting history

The history of the decorated Christmas tree is an old one. It started in the 10th century, when an Arabian geographer told this story - On the night Christ was born, trees in the forest bloomed and bore fruit. To recreate the tale, people began to decorate trees around their homes.

The Germans were the first to decorate trees indoors. They used apples, sacramental wafers, candles, gold foil, paper roses and sweets. Through the

colors, adding each new layer after the last one has cooled. These candles can be made in old straight-sided juice cans; and a novel effect can be gotten by tilting the can so that the layers cool on an angle.

Large, burned-down candles can be rejuvenated by placing small votive candles into the burned-out portion.

Use candles on fireplace mantles, with other accessories and ornaments. Group different sizes and colors of candles, allowing a small space between so that shorter candles flames do not soften the larger ones near them. Float small candles in water for a centerpiece. Place candle arrangements before a mirror which will pick up the flame's reflection.

years, the apple ornaments were replaced with oranges then by decorative balls. Cookies cut in a variety of shapes, replaced the wafers.

The use of tinsel began with this lovely story - Late one Christmas Eve, a mother decorated a tree to surprise her poor family. During the night, a spider wove a web around the tree. The web turned to silver in approval of the mother's goodness.

It wasn't until 1856 that President Franklin Pierce decorated a tree in the White House. The tradition then became widespread in the United States.

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Sprigs of holly should be placed in beehives at Christmas. So says an old English Christmas tradition. This custom stems from the legend that, at the Manger, bees gathered to hum a hymn of joy.

Origin of the Cookie

Our American word "cookie" comes from Holland by way of the Dutch who settled New Amsterdam, now known as New York. The Dutch called a cookie a "koekje" which means small cake. As is the case many times when adopting new food, the English took the sound and gave it their own spelling.

Cash receipts up

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Cash receipts from farm marketings for January through September of this year totaled \$65.96 billion, up 9½ per cent from a year earlier, according to USDA's Economic Research Service. Receipts from livestock and products, at \$35.33 billion, are up 14 per cent from the 1975 pact. Receipts from crops, at \$30.6 billion, are up two per cent.

A breakdown shows receipts from livestock and livestock products were above a year earlier in all 50 states. Receipts from crops above a year ago in 25 states, below a year ago in 25. Over-all receipts above a year ago in 45 states. They were below a year earlier in Rhode Island, North Dakota, Ohio, Alaska and Hawaii.



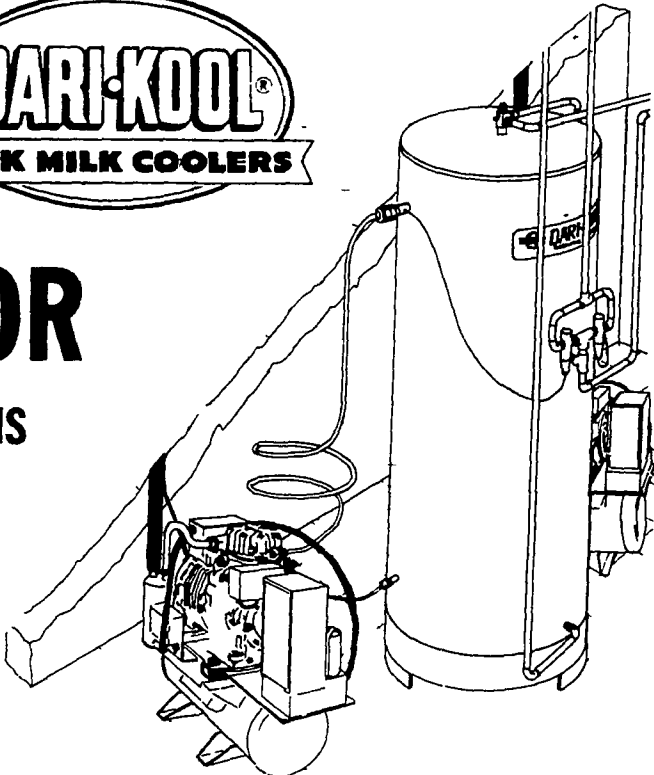
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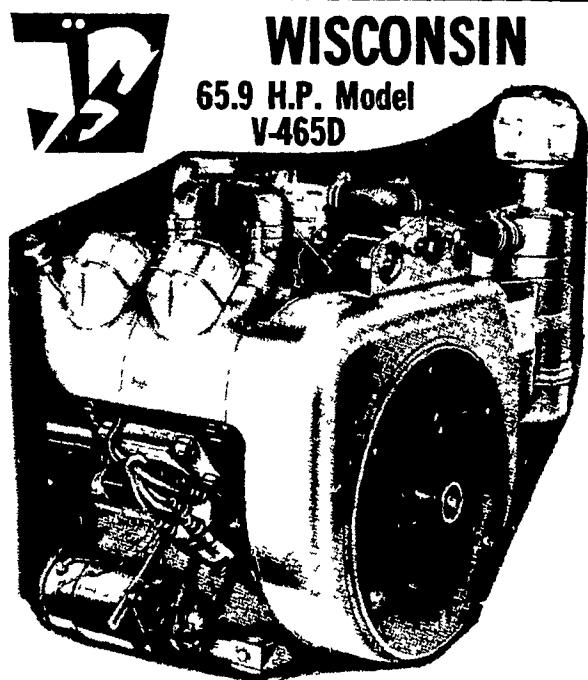
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