

Christmas doesn't have to be expensive as machine, material, paper, and a good the picture above shows. All you need is a imagination to make almost all the gifts above.



When decorating for Christmas, only the imagination can stop you. Would you ever have thought of using apples to create a tree and adding an old doll for an "old fashioned" Christmas?

## 'Tis time to plan for Christmas

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANCASTER — 'Tis two months before Christmas and all through the Farm and Home Center squeezed over 900 women determined to see the annual Homemaker's Christmas in October program, Monday and Tuesday.

Everyone except the mice were stirring in the auditorium as they worked their way from gingerbread houses to Christmas cookies to calico wreaths as visions of finished, homemade presents danced in their heads.

The participants had all seated themselves and were in for a day-long bout of fun and education when what to their wondering eyes should appear but five excellent speakers talking on all phases of Christmas and the holidays.

They knew in a moment the first speaker to be Doris Thomas, Lancaster County home economist, who gave the homemakers a Christmas present of cookie, candy and fudge recipes. According to Thomas, she compiled a list of nutritious recipes, looking for foods that used whole wheat and nature's candy — dates, raisins, and nuts.

Find some of Thomas' recipes following the story.

The next little elf helping Santa prepare mothers for Christmas was Michelle Rodgers, also a Lancaster County home economist. She showed the women how to coordinate a Christmas theme using calico material.

According to Rodgers there is no other art medium which will allow you to do all the things you can do with material: fold, paste, pleat, cut, tear, etc. She also pointed out that calico is in hefty supplies in most material stores in the area this year. Rodgers supplied the homemakers with instructions for such crafts as putty Christmas trees, lollipop ornaments and candlestick holders.

As Santa Claus is to Christmas, so Patti Hudson is to gingerbread houses. Hudson, homemaker, speaker and workshop teacher, shared her love and skill in making gingerbread houses and her collection of such with the audience.

And after Christmas comes, the presents are wrapped, and the decorating finished, it's time to entertain friends. Marcia Wharton showed the ladies how to speak not a word (of panic) but get straight to their work and entertain with flare. She urged the homemakers to use their imaginations and dig out old crocks, bowls and containers and decide how they could use them to add that certain touch when entertaining.

"You can add that special magic to Christmas for others because children are fascinated by things they see so little — such as special bowls and dolls," she said. In explanation she spoke of a jar of jewels she remembered as a child which was nothing more than a glass jar holding toy necklaces and trinkets.

The last speaker of the day was Gloria Zimmerman, floral artist. Zimmerman created Christmas and Thanksgiving scenes for the homemakers using vases, flowers and fabric.

Several farm women societies in Lancaster County were on hand to show and sell crafts made throughout the past year.

Nobody left the Center without a new idea, and a fresh approach to Christmas. According to Thomas, over 300 women had been turned away due to lack of room. Plans for a three-day program next year have been tentatively discussed.

Nobody left the Center without a new idea, a fresh approach to Christmas, and a wish for a Merry Christmas to all and to all a happy two more months till the big event.

### HEALTHFUL FUDGE

- 1 c. honey
- 1 c. peanut butter
- 1 c. carob powder
- 1 c. shelled sunflower seed
- 1/2 c. toasted sesame seed
- 1/2 c. flaked coconut
- 1/2 c. chopped walnuts
- 1/2 c. raisins

In large saucepan heat honey and peanut butter, stirring constantly just till smooth. Remove from heat; stir in carob powder. Mix well. Stir in sunflower seed, sesame seed, coconut, walnuts, and raisins. Press into a buttered 8x8x2 inch pan. Chill, covered, several hours or overnight. Cut into 1 inch squares. Store in refrigerator.

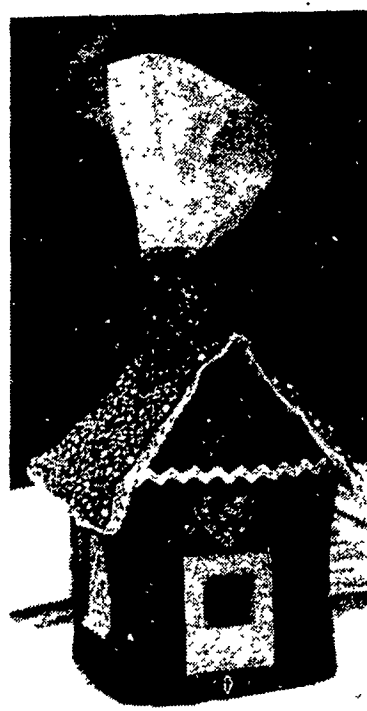
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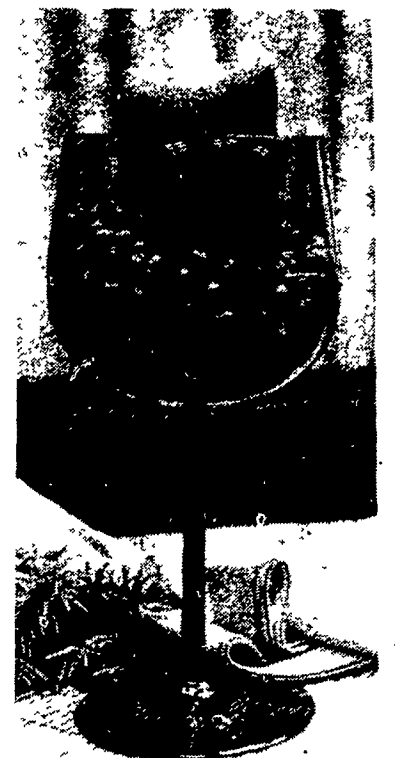
This Christmas as you hang stockings for each member of the family, why not add a homemade gingerbread family? They'll last till next Christmas, and the next, unlike your gingerbread cookies.



A cute idea for entertaining friends at Christmas is to have small yuletide-decorated boxes full of thoughtful gifts ready to send home with them. Small tin boxes are great for holding cookies and fudge.



This sewn creation serves both as a toy house for the children and a tissue holder for you.



What could be easier or prettier than this centerpiece? It's made simply by pouring cranberries in a smoked-glass container and adding a candle.