

Muddy Run Park holds Christmas workshop

BY SUSAN KAUFFMAN
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Muddy Run Recreation Park, owned by Philadelphia Electric Company, hosted its first Christmas Decorating Workshop recently.

Chotty Derr, activity director at the communication and nature center at the park, explained that the interest in the workshop well exceeded expectations.

Originally planned for fifteen to twenty-five participants, coordinators had to stop taking reservations for the free workshop when replies reached seventy-five in number. Although advertised as a workshop for decorating with things from nature, the workshop incorporated other handcrafts as well.

Leaders for the evening workshop were two local women: Mary Sue Nissley, R2, Columbia, worked with part of the group making silk and dried flower basket ornaments and Cindy Derr, Holtwood, instructed the rest of the group in making fabric-covered Christmas ball ornaments.

Several local craft persons shared their decorations on display tables and a large cut Christmas tree was also decorated with handmade ornaments designed by Mary, Cindy and others, helping with the program.

Among those which utilized natural items were ornaments made from pine cones cut crosswise to form flowers, milkweed seed pods with figures glued inside, half shells of English walnuts forming beds for tiny, stuffed, grey-felt mice, and other walnut shells used to make a Santa head complete with a felt hat on top and a fuzzy beard at the chin.

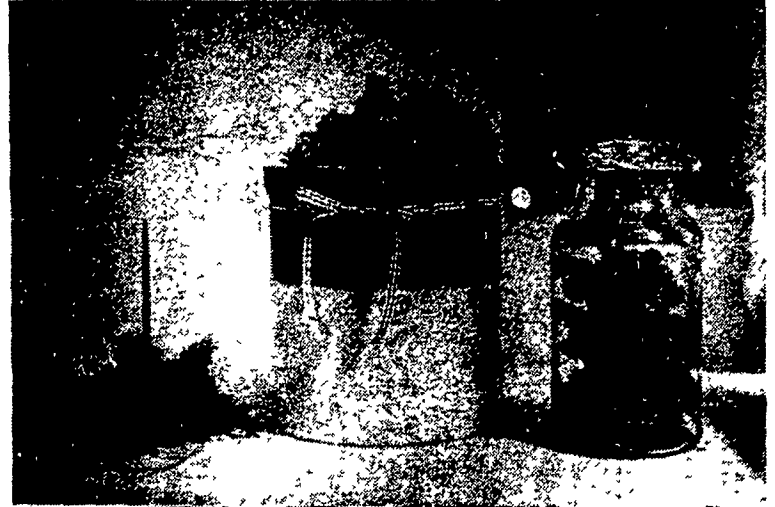
Facial features were made from felt, beads, and paint. Wood shaving strips joined at the ends to form a circle made an attractive frame to encase wheat grain heads crossed to form an X.

Other ornaments made from natural materials included small wreaths constructed from sweet gum seed pods and tiny pinecones glued to a cardboard disc and decorated with tiny dried flowers and bows.

To accent tables and mantels



Cindy Derr, exhibits a shadowbox type ornament made with a curtain ring for a frame. Inside the frame are mice made from pussy willow buds with tiny pink sea shells for ears.



Here are just a few of the items presented at the workshop. To the left is an apple, evergreen and candle arrangement. Next is a six-gallon crock with checkered ribbon tied around it and filled with pinecones. To the right is a glass jar with sweet gum balls in it.

with natural materials, Chotty Derr exhibited several ideas. One was a table centerpiece made from an apple which is used as a base to hold sprigs of greens. A candle is placed in the top of the apple to complete the arrangement. The mingling of the pine and apple fragrances add to the holiday atmosphere.

Another idea is to fill a crock to the brim and pile it high with pine

cones, then tie a ribbon and bow around the crock.

In addition to displaying many ornaments and making one to take home, the workshop also included printed information for using natural materials. Chotty encouraged participants to string popcorn and cranberries for birds to eat outdoors. Other objects from nature which could be used to make tree trimmings and decorations for the house included

grasses, feathers, rose hips, ash seeds, tulip seeds, orange peels, acorn caps, and ailanthus stars. Pussy willow buds were used to form tiny mice inside shadowbox ornaments.

Directions for the apple candle holder are:

Materials needed: 1 apple, 1 tapered candle, Evergreen pieces, modeling clay (small amount).

Core hole in apple to fit a stan-

dard size tapered candle. Stick several evergreen pieces into apple, making sure all pieces are pointed upward and the apple is completely covered. Stick candle in apple. If necessary, use a small amount of modeling clay to hold in place. The candleholder makes a unique addition to any place setting. The juice from the apple will help keep the evergreen pieces fresh for an extended period of time.

USDA schedules forum

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Marketing Strategies for Increased Profits" will be the theme for the second annual U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Women's Forum, scheduled for February 7, 8 and 9, at USDA headquarters in Washington.

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said the purpose of the meeting is "to provide women with marketing strategies to aid in strengthening the producers' profit margin. With bountiful crops and low producer income, the challenge now for agricultural producers is how to market their harvest profitably. It is my intention that the U.S. Department of Agriculture direct its resources

toward assisting producers in meeting this challenge."

The forum program will include top government and industry officials who will provide usable, practical information on such topics as market forecasting, use of home computers, cooperative marketing, electronic marketing, marketing orders, boards of trade and how they work, domestic and foreign market development.

The first such USDA-sponsored meeting for farm women was held in October 1980 and focused on legislative processes. Some 60 women attended, representing leading farm and farm women's organizations attended.

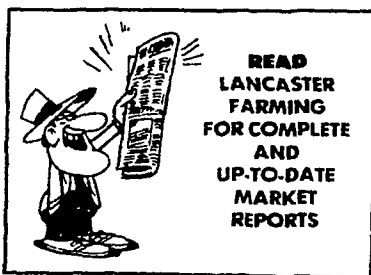
Application to attend the 1982

conference is open to all farm women. They need not be representatives of a farm organization to attend. However, because of space limitations, participation will be limited to 100 women on a first-come-first-served basis with consideration for geographical representation. Attendance at the Forum is free, but housing and transportation expenses must be paid by the participants.

Farm women interested in attending may obtain registration materials and information from: Farm Women's Forum, Office of the Secretary, Public Liaison, U.S. Department of Agriculture,

Washington, D.C., 20250, Telephone: (202) 447-3622.

Registration by mail must be returned by January 5. The first 100 registrants will be notified by January 10.



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