

A Blizzard Of Ideas From "Christmas In October"

BY LOU ANN GOOD
LANCASTER — For 15 years, women have looked forward to the "Christmas In October" workshops sponsored by the county extension office. There they learn how to deck their halls, doors, and tables with holiday beauty, to make gifts and cook holiday recipes.

This year was no exception. Approximately 450 women attended the workshops held this week at the Farm and Home Center.

If you are one who admires your neighbors' centerpieces, but protests, "I don't have time to make one," then Sherry Kalbach, one of the workshop demonstrators, has these words of advice: "I'll teach you how to arrange your life so that you'll have time to be just in time for Christmas." She endorses time-savers such as limiting dusting to twice a year.

Lint projects

Because she majors in making things out of junk, Sherry is best known in Lebanon and Lancaster counties as the "garbage bag lady" or the "lady who cooks lint."

Capitalizing on her reputation, Sherry displayed numerous items transformed from worthlessness into new items. Last year, she demonstrated projects made from cooking dryer lint. This year, Sherry has adapted her dryer lint projects to the demands of the busy housewife; consequently, her dryer lint projects no longer require cooking. She simply glued



Sherry Kalbach revealed that her projects are not always derived from junk, but she did use remnants and outgrown baby clothing to make a doll that looks like her adopted daughter. Snow White's dress and the Seven Dwarfs inserted in the skirt doubles as a costume for her daughter and a doll.



As usual, the holiday dishes prepared by Doris Thomas, extension home economist, became door prizes for the lucky winners.



Reindeer are in this year. Sue Miller painted this paper-mache model and twisted a garland of dried flowers to add a festive touch.

lint to wooden sheep cutouts, using homespun colors of lint.

Travel books

For those who need to travel with small children, Sherry suggests compiling a travel activity

book. She fills zip lock plastic bags with items guaranteed to keep little fingers busy. The bags are fastened at the edges so they can be turned like the pages of a book. Each compartment holds items such as recycled greeting cards with holes punched at strategic points and yarn for threading through them; pipe cleaners to form stick people, puzzles fashioned from cereal boxes, pencils, paper, crayons, a magnifying glass and magnets.

Corn capsules

Sherry's humor shines through many of her projects. This year she created Christmas corn capsules, which are used as a Christmas countdown for children. The container spouts these words:

"How many days till Christmas? It's awfully hard to wait! So, Reach in the jar and pull out a roll

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Bonnie Livezey received an audience ovation when she demonstrated how to make this wicker bell fan.



Twigs tied in a square and topped with greens and a bow makes this a simple but effective arrangement to hang on the door or window.

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