



# Flower Arrangements By The Careful Are Her Hobby



Saturday morning, Mrs. Albert Ide sat down at her work table in Lehman . . . nippers, styrofoam, containers, flowers, all handy . . . sleeves rolled up for a day's work.

Her project was fourteen floral arrangements for the Lehman Methodist Church where she and her family are members. Sound like a big order? Yes, it was a big order and one that required hours of work . . . but it's the kind of thing that Frances Ide gets pleasure and satisfaction from doing . . . for she's an expert at flower arranging!

Twelve of the arrangements designed by Mrs. Ide were for the Men's Bible Class who were holding their annual ham and egg dinner (church dinner committees instinctively turn to Mrs. Ide for artistic help); the other two more formal designs were for the Sunday church services.

Matching church arrangements are prepared by Mrs. Ide every Sunday of the year . . . year in, year out . . . all beautifully and artistically executed and in keeping with the season or the current re-

ligious holiday.

This generous contribution of time and talent which Mrs. Ide makes each week is a true demonstration of love for church, community and friends . . . through the medium of flowers!

And not only through her talent with flowers does she contribute to her community. Hundreds of people who attend the Easter Sunrise Service at Lehman each year enjoy an organ recital before the service by Mrs. Ide. She has a beautiful Baldwin organ in her own home and is a member of the American Guild of Organists, Wyoming Valley Chapter.

Frances Ide first became interested in flower arranging way back when the Lehman Flower Show was in its infancy.

Since that time she has worked, studied, practiced until she is an accredited amateur judge and a lec-



clubs and organizations, gave this lecture before the Towanda Garden Club in March.

Mrs. Ide's hobby is not only time consuming but, at times, nerve-racking, too. She confided that arrangements which are not in competition are usually real pleasure — but even then, a person can become over-burdened. But when it comes to competitive work, an arranger, no matter how talented, must muster all of her imagination, originality, patience and skill. The satisfaction which comes with the achievement of a blue ribbon, however, is well worth all of the tenseness and hard work.

Mrs. Ide recalled one national convention in particular which she attended recently in Philadelphia where she worked with the noted and talented L. J. Tolle, instructor of floraculture in the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University. (His church arrangements were featured in the February 1962 issue of "Together" magazine). Mrs. Ide's assignment was to design an arrangement typifying "Lent" from the material supplied her. Mrs. Ide admitted that an assignment of this nature, though challenging, is a little nerve-racking, too . . . particularly under the eye of such an outstanding floral design man. She said the time spent with Mr. Tolle was one of the most interesting experiences of her arrangement career.

Of course, there's often the humorous aspect behind the dramatic . . . many times unknown to the public. Many area people saw and exclaimed over the horse-drawn flower cart entered twice in the Lehman Horse Show parade and sponsored by the Friendship Class of the Lehman Church. Once again, Mrs. Ide was "behind" this beautiful display . . . and at one time we might say she was "up-side-down behind it." It seems that Old Dobbin was all hitched and ready to go, flowered hat perched on his head. Hours and hours had been

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turer. She was recently elected president of Wyoming Valley Garden Club for a two-year term. She is chairman of schedules for District Three in Pennsylvania, which means she must approve flower show schedules for the seven clubs in this area. She conducts a workshop program for members of her garden club. Last year she helped judge seven shows.

In order to become an accredited judge, Mrs. Ide was required to

complete five courses at Flower Show Schools—two in Allentown, three in Philadelphia—plus a reading course. She then served two years as a student judge and is now in her fourth year as an accredited amateur judge. She is a member of the Central Area Judges' Council.

On June 5, Mrs. Ide will lecture before the West Side Flower Club on "The Dos and Don'ts of Good Flower Arrangement." Mrs. Ide, who is available to lecture before

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