



People



Fresh Christmas trees are more prevalent

As America rediscovers her roots in tradition, more and more families each year are turning to a living symbol of the Christmas season - a fresh, natural evergreen tree.

Most folks still rely on "choose and cut" farms, where generally you cut the tree you select, or one of the many vendors who display their trees at garden centers or retail lots this time of year.

No matter what method you use, the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association recommends these guidelines for selecting a tree and setting it up at home.

Freshness is extremely important to tree buyers, and there are two tests for it. First, gently bend a needle between your fingers. A fresh tree's needles will easily bend. If the needle breaks, the tree is drying out. Second, hoist the tree a few inches above the ground and bounce it sharply on its butt end to dislodge old brown needles that shed naturally in the Fall. If an excessive number of green needles drops, look for another tree.

The fragrance of fresh trees is a common reason people buy them. Fraser and Balsam fir are noted for having the most distinct "evergreen" aroma, while the various pines rank somewhat lower. Spruces are among the least aromatic trees. But the most fragrant evergreen of all is the Concolor or "white" fir. A little more difficult to find, this tree smells like a fresh orange and makes a great conversation piece.

Size. Simply put, don't buy too much tree. That magnificent seven-footer might look terrific on the lot, but the added height given to it by a tree stand and the "topper" could be more than your eight-foot ceiling can accommodate. And don't forget to measure the thickness of the



Choosing a tree

Choosing and cutting a fresh Christmas tree is a joyful annual event for many families celebrating the holiday season.

trunk. Make sure it will fit through your tree stand's collar.

Water is one thing your tree will need right away. Before putting it into the stand, make a fresh cut about one inch above the end. This will let the tree absorb water quickly, keeping it fresher longer. Once you've cut the trunk, get it in water quickly. Otherwise, the cut will begin to seal itself and defeat the purpose.

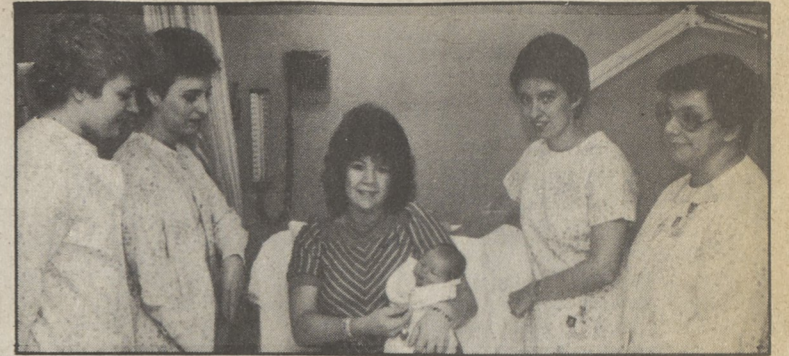
Keep the water level well above the cut, and check it every day. There's no need to add sugar, corn syrup, aspirin or other chemicals; according to the Association, plain water is the best holiday beverage for your tree.

Check every strand of lights for frayed cords, burned-out bulbs, cracking insulation or other defects. When you spot one, repair or replace it. Apart from creating a potential fire hazard, using damaged electrical products can result in a nasty shock.

Fire resistant. A fresh Christmas tree is naturally fire resistant because it has a high moisture content. If you keep the base of the trunk soaking continuously in water, the tree will remain both fresh and flame resistant. Both characteristics have been confirmed in a study by the Connecticut Agricultural Experimenting Station. For added insurance, be sure you:

- Don't use candles as illumination
- Don't smoke near the tree
- Keep the tree away from drying sources of heat
- Unplug all lights when you leave the home or go to bed.

Selecting and caring for a fresh Christmas tree doesn't take any special skills or abundance of time, but it can brighten your home physically and emotionally. It can bring back childhood memories, or serve as the foundation for building new ones.



Spoons presented

Mrs. David Grega, Wilkes-Barre, is shown in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital's Obstetrics Department with staff nurses and her three-day-old son, Ryan David, the first newborn to receive a "silver spoon" as a memento of his birth at Wilkes-Barre General. The stainless steel spoon is engraved with the child's year of birth and hospital name and will be given to all mothers who give birth at General. Seven-pound four-ounce Ryan David is the Grega's first child. Shown, from left, are Darlene Orlandini, R.N., Dallas; Jackie Zampetti, L.P.N., Wyoming; Mrs. Grega and Ryan David; Mary Ann Carmadella, R.N., Duryea; Joann Sulima, R.N., Pittston.

Plans finalized

At the recent meeting of the Ross Elementary P.T.O. plans were finalized for the upcoming Christmas Season. Mary Rishko and Rita Zeveney are co-chairpersons for Santa's Workshop to be held Dec. 10 and 11. During these two days the children are given an opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for their families. Bernadette Maciejczak and Pat Rosencrans are in charge of the children's Christmas party to be held December 20. A visit from Jolly Old St. Nick is always a highlight of this day.

Donna Swire was congratulated on a job well done on the Halloween Parade and party. Parents and students provided the audience with a varied display of costumes.

Trudi Steele would like to remind everyone that the soup label campaign is still under way. So far the number of labels collected is only 5,000. Let's get those labels cut and counted!

Membership dues may be paid during Open House at the school on November 21 from 7 to 9 or at the December meeting but no later than December 31.

The next meeting will be held on December 16. There will be a short meeting followed by a Christmas party. Everyone attending is asked to bring a \$2.00 exchange gift and 1/2 dozen cookies. Please come and join in the fun.

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Artist Sue Hand wins international art prize

Dallas artist Sue Hand has received word that she has won a top prize in an international art exhibition. The exhibit is sponsored

each year by the Florida Miniature Art Society, and includes entries by artists from all 50 states plus many foreign countries. Sue won fourth

prize in overall competition with a detailed pen and ink drawing of a Benton resident. She also had six watercolors accepted in this year's exhibition.

This is the third prize in the past year to bring national recognition for Sue Hand. One of her miniature paintings is currently touring the West as part of a traveling exhibition. Sue serves as the national coordinator for the Cider Painters of America, and is one of its founding members. She was also instru-

mental in beginning the Australian Society of Miniature Art in Sydney, New South Wales. She is a member of numerous other professional organizations, and serves as a Board Member of College Misericordia's Art Gallery.

Sue is a graduate of Kutztown State College. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Larish of Orange, she is married to Joseph R. Hand. The couple resides in Dallas with their daughter, Heather, a junior at Dallas High School.

Special plates may be available

Rep. George C. Hasay said today that his measure to allow recipients of the Purple Heart to receive a special license plate has been approved by a vote of 199-0 on the House floor.

plates," Hasay said. "I believe that with a feeling of patriotism running high in this country we should honor those who received this special award for bravery."

Purple Hearts are awarded to individuals who are wounded in combat.

"We honor a number of organizations and individuals with special

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