

Along Azalea Row

By RUTH B. SMITH

Have you noticed that, one by one, the windows of down-town stores are taking on that cheerful, colorful decoration which spells "Merry Christmas to All?" It would be fine if a committee headed by Mrs. Lindsoug (and by the way, a cordial welcome home to our Christmas lady!) were to name the three or more most pleasing decorations of the Chetco Avenue business district. It is always nice to have someone voice appreciation for hard efforts, so when you go into a store, just mention that you like their handiwork.

The Spirit of Christmas was immediately evident on arrival at the Garden Club last Thursday. A lighted Christmas tree, a beautiful tea table centered with a large golden angel, holly, candle, and figurine Christmas arrangements, Christmas corsages, each member arriving with a brilliantly wrapped package containing her best production in Christmas cookery — all attested to Christmas being just around the corner.

Ruth Bathiany, our program chairman, had welded the afternoon into a pleasing whole that sent us away with new ideas for Christmas and with hearts full of the meaning of Christmas in song and story. Mrs. Erskine Miller presented a new angle for the Bird of the Month section by bringing us the topic of bird feeders and good bird seed which, through the winter months is most essential for our little feathered friends. She displayed two types of feeders available commercially which will help to attract the birds to one's garden, and named the berry plants of this area, which birds best like: cotoneaster, wax myrtle, pyracanthus and the madronas are all favorites. Mrs. Wollam chose "Holly" for her Flower of the Month, in keeping with the sea-

son. She told of the need for polinization, that there should be a male holly tree within at least one thousand or fifteen hundred foot distance. A commercial grower stipulates they should be planted at the rate of one to 50 berry producing hollies or two to an acre in commercial growing. Cuttings can be started from mature wood, dipped in rooting substance and placed in a combination of half and half peat moss when they will root in about one month. At the age of six, berries should produce when planted in well-fertilized, well-drained soil. The prickly, shiny leaved English holly together with the Silvery Variegated grow beautifully in our northwest and whether for ornament or as a money maker will give great returns on a small investment.

The Azalea Singers may always be counted on for finished performance and their program at the meeting hit a new high. Its members have sung together long enough under Mrs. Mackenzie's direction to result in a fine blending of voices. The group entered, with capes and caps glistening with snow, singing "Jingle Bells," which put all in just the right mood for listening. Of the numbers given, perhaps the most delightful was "The Carol of the Russian Children" which Mrs. Mackenzie carefully explained as referring to the White Russians. "Winter Wonderland," sung as a duet by Mrs. Mackenzie and Mrs. Helen Rice as also well received. We are fortunate in having two such excellent musicians in our club. The musical program concluded with Mrs. Mackenzie's solo, "Christmas in Killarney," which again proved her versatility.

December meetings of the Garden Club would almost seem incomplete without the help of Mrs. Hibbard. This time she told of Christmas on the plains of Bethlehem, giving the contrast between the customs of the days of Christ which are still in evidence along with the developments of the modern age. She spoke of the contrasts in transportation, the

camels and the donkeys obstructing the progress of the trucks and busses. She described the beauty of the Church of the Nativity, built by many nations and containing costly gifts of kings and emperors — old mosaics, valuable rugs and tapestries. As she told of the huge star which marks the spot where Jesus was born, we felt ourselves almost a part of the scene; in imagination seeing the people of all nations, classes and creeds coming to kneel and worship at the sacred place while armed guards stand watch around the clock, throughout the year. We were transported for a little while to that little town of Bethlehem where babies are still wrapped in swaddling clothes and where the shepherds watch and care for their flocks on the hillside.

The serious part of the program was concluded with a message on Christmas by Mrs. William Fisher in which she asked that every person take time at the Christmas season to think of those less fortunate than ourselves and to carry the true spiritual meaning of Christmas day in our hearts, namely the birthday of Jesus.

The Special Committee of Mrs. Paul Ronniger and Mrs. Francis Arrell had arranged for the exchange of gifts and for the judging of the three most pleasing wrappings, which took place before gifts were exchanged. The package which took first place was wrapped by Mrs. Elmer Han-

scam and looked like a true flower arrangement with its topping of green from which were extended little yellow flowers, as in a garden. Second honors went to Mrs. Glenn Rogers whose package was wrapped in gold paper, tied with brown ribbon and topped with pine cones while honorable mention went to Mrs. Charles Grayshel for her basket edged with variegated holly and the delectable Christmas cookies plain-

ly visible through the cellophane cover.

The happy conclusion for the afternoon was the social hour over our cups of tea, which part of the afternoon was beautifully planned by Mrs. T. F. McKenna, Mrs. Ray Guerretaz, Mrs. Glenn Rogers and Mrs. Ray Streubing.

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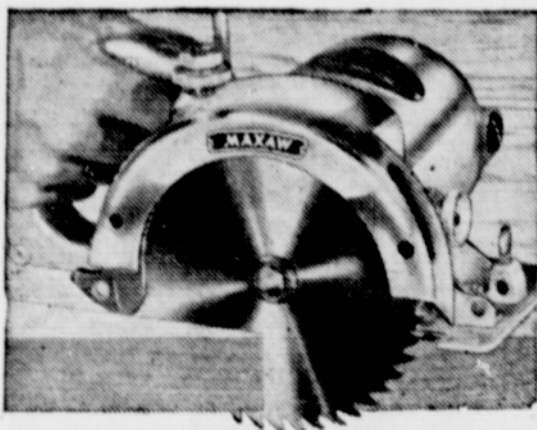


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