

'Crafty' ideas for creative Christmas gifting



BORED BY COMMERCIAL CARDS? ... then make your own! Let children make their own colorful, collage Christmas cards by using roughly-torn shapes torn or cut from translucent, colored tissue paper. Let them experiment with interesting color-over-color effects, gluing paper down with a thin coat of Elmer's Glue-All or Elmer's Washable School Glue. Glaze made by brushing Elmer's over the finished picture creates the shimmering, translucent effect. Hint: when gluing paper, try to spread Elmer's evenly, not too thickly.



SANTA CLAUS CARD HOLDER is a tidy way to stow away all those greetings, and makes a cute ornament when hung over the mantle. Using a square of red felt, fold up the bottom third and glue edges together to form a pocket. This is Santa's body. Give him felt arms, head, face, hat and belt. Use cotton for his hair and buttons for trim. Glue it all with Elmer's. Hang with a yarn loop glued to his back and stow cards in his "pocket." A cute idea for decorating your home, or for children to make and give to Grandma.

Trim a tree creatively

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and homemakers are faced with the annual task of organizing their households for the oncoming rush of "season's greetings."

Children everywhere are keyed-up with anticipation, and finding things to keep them occupied and off-the-scene is no minor chore.

Why not give them something interesting to do, save yourself time and do your pocketbook a good turn all at once. Let the children, with the aid of some everyday household items and a container of Elmer's Glue-All or new (washable) Elmer's School Glue, direct their creativity toward making Christmas ornaments this year.

Put the oldest child in charge of directing tree-trimming activities and set up rules for the rest of the youngsters to follow.

Or, if all the children are a young age, you might consider asking for help from your favorite babysitter. Home-baked holiday cookies might be an irresistible reward. (You might even enjoy a bit of creative play-time yourself!)

Here are some easy, inventive ideas to start you off, so get the children together, give them a container of Elmer's and just take it from there!

(Note: If children are very young, give them new Elmer's School Glue, made to wash out of fabrics easily. Now you can let the little ones get into the Christmas spirit without worrying about the mess they'll make!)

Nostalgia returns to tree trimming as crafters make own ornaments

Legend tells us that the first Christmas tree was revealed in a miracle to Boniface, an English missionary, as he traveled through northern Germany about 1,200 years ago.

Though its origins may be lost in time, the stately decorated evergreen tree is still an international Yuletide symbol.

In many countries around the world, early ornaments were hand-made and reflected local customs as well as materials.

For early American Christmas celebrations, tree decorations often included paper chains, popcorn and cranberry strings as well as a variety of paper ornaments.

Even today hand-made decorations can give your tree a touch of nostalgia and warmth we all like at the holiday season.

So, get out scissors, glue, yarn and ribbon. Collect Christmas cards with bright, bold designs, gift wrapping papers and some cardboard.

These suggestions from designers at American Greetings are easy to execute and pleasing to the eye.

To make a traditional Polish paper ornament, cut out a pattern for a circle about 4 1/2 inches in diameter. Then use shiny or small patterned gift paper to make 15 circles of this size. Cut each circle (to within 1/2 inch of the center) into eight sections.

Roll each segment tightly (perhaps around a skewer) to form a curled, cone



A VARIETY OF EASY-TO-MAKE paper and ribbon ornaments are suggested by designers at American Greetings Corporation to give your tree a warm and nostalgic touch. Materials are readily available at your local gift wrap store.

shape. String all 15 circles together on gift cord, pull tightly and knot to hold. Leave enough cord to tie to the tree branch.

To make yarn and cord decorations, you'll need cardboard, colorful jumbo yarn and metallic cord from your local giftwrap supply center. Cut out shapes like a stocking, angel, bird, snowman or free form from lightweight colored poster board or old Christmas cards.

Wind and glue cord or yarn to the shapes you have cut out to outline them, form details or create patterns. For example, outline the partridge's feathers and wings, the angel's face, arms or robe design.

For an interesting effect, shapes may be filled in solidly on both sides with yarn or cord for an all-over pattern. Punch a hole in top of ornament or glue cord or yarn loop to top for hanging.

CHRISTMAS LORE AND LEGEND

This year when you're trimming the tree, filling Christmas stockings or hanging mistletoe—give a thought to where you got your favorite Christmas custom; chances are it goes farther back in history than you realize.

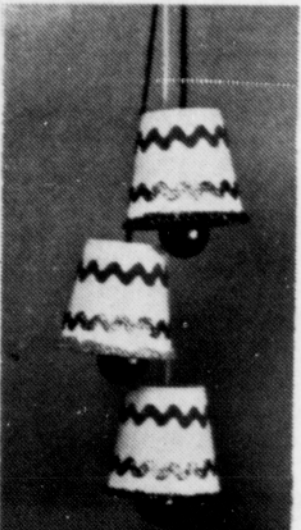
In fact, many historians believe that Christmas itself may have had its origins in ancient Greek and Roman festivities in observance of the midwinter change of seasons. The use of greenery



at Christmas also grew out of ancient Greek and Roman customs. Holly, for example, was a favorite decoration of the Romans, who made lavish use of green boughs and garlands to honor Saturn, their god of agriculture.

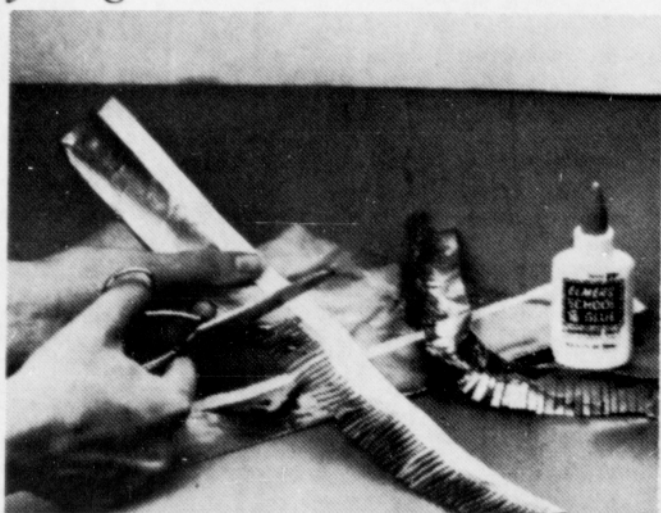
You may kiss under the mistletoe, but the ancient Druids called it the "all heal" and believed it had the power to miraculously cure disease and counter-act poisons.

One of our most recent customs, the exchanging of Christmas cards, began in England in the 1840's. Christmas cards were first introduced in the United States by Louis Prang, a German immigrant who settled in Massachusetts. Often called the "Father of the American Christmas Card," Prang printed his first "Season Greetings" in 1873.



CHRISTMAS BELLS are made from disposable drinking cups. Decorate with ric-rac trim and glue glitter to rims with Elmer's. For clappers use two small ornaments or jingle bells on lengths of knotted yarn strung through holes in top of ball. Tie the yarns together in a bow and hang in a doorway for a melodious season's greetings to visitors.

Holiday crafts to delight young and old



GLITTERING CHRISTMAS TREE is easy-to-make with gold foil paper. Cut foil paper into six-inch strips. Fold each strip lengthwise so that one side of fold is a 3/4 inch narrower than the other. Slash through the folded side every 1/4 inch or so to within 1/2 inch of the short edge. Use Elmer's to glue edges together so that narrower side is even with the wider side, to create a flounced effect. Starting at the bottom of a paper cone, take each strip prepared this way and glue it around the tree, covering the top part of the last ruffle with the next ruffle. Top the tree off with gold trim and a small ornament.



Pinata party features Santa Claus

"What About A Windy Tale?", a play about a wintry little wind, Jack Frost, a bear, a fox and a special guest appearance of the sun, with lots of music and color, will be presented by Family Circus.

Songs, games, refreshments, a Pinata Party and a play are the activities planned for Santa's Special. Boys and girls, age six to twelve, are invited to Santa's Special scheduled for December 22 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the downtown YWCA.

professional touring children's theatre group supported in part by a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Since the company began in August of 1972, it has entertained more than 25,000 children and per-

formed in more than thirty Portland area schools. The Family Circus decided this year to create a story with the essence of Christmas but without the traditional theme.

The Pinata Party, with the breaking of the pinata, a Mexican custom at Christmas, will be presented by the Aguila Organization, a non-profit organization for the betterment of the Chicano community.

There will be a nominal charge for the afternoon activities, which have been planned especially for children whose mothers will be busy with holiday shopping.

Decorated Christmas trees in Christian homes did not become popular until the sixteenth century, when Martin Luther cut a snow-laden tree from his garden, decorated it with candles, and placed it in the nursery for his wife and children.

Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort, brought the Christmas tree tradition to England when he wed the British monarch in 1841. He set up a richly-decorated tree in Windsor Castle for the first time that year.

More than 30 million American households will have a decorated live-cut Christmas tree this year.

Angel tree-topper



FOR THE ANGEL, decorate a cone of white paper (or a cone-shaped drink cup) with silver ric-rac. Wings are two pipe cleaners covered with tissue paper folded over and glued to itself. Tape wings and a pair of pipe cleaner arms to back of cone. Angel's head is a painted rubber ball (sequin features and cotton hair added), hollowed to fit the cone, and glued in place with Elmer's.

Egg-citing ornaments



SAVE UP CLEVER, egg-shaped L'EGGS pantyhose and stocking packages to use for ornaments. Poke a small hole in half of the egg and thread with knotted string. If you wish to use the whole egg, glue halves together before starting to decorate. Make angels, Santas, decorated bells using felt scrap cut-outs, ric-rac, sequins for trim. The beautiful beaded ornament is simply an egg covered with rows of beads glued on with Elmer's.

Clothespin angels



CUT A PAPER muffin cup in half. Fold each half again, glue each pair for wings on the back of a wooden clothespin, fold-side up. With Elmer's, apply cotton hair, head features, lace for trim. Wrap pipe cleaner arms around "neck," add paper cut-outs of instruments, songbooks. Perch on a branch for angelic choir.

Writing program offered

Writing for Children will be offered by Women's Programs, Division of Continuing Education on Wednesday, January 9 through March 13, 1974, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 290 in the Smith Memorial Center at Portland State University. The fee is \$40.00. Ruth Franchere, ALA Notable Book and New York Herald Tribune Honor Book awardee author of eleven books for young people, will teach the course.

This course is designed for men and women who seriously wish to write for children but need help in determining where to begin and how to proceed. Topics include length, form, subject matter, recent trends, planning, research, revision and preparation of manuscripts.

Registration is being taken at the Division of Continuing Education Building, 1633 S.W. Park Avenue; or by mail at P.O. Box 1491, Portland, Oregon 97207; or by calling 229-4866 or 229-4849.

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