Home Decorations May Include Christmas Cards

Smart homemakers this year will make their Christmas cards do double duty during the holiday season. They'll enjoy receiving them, of course, but they'll also use them as part of the Yuletide decorations to add a gay and cheery note to the traditional holly and greenery.

Putting Christmas greetings to work in this fashion can be lots of fun. There are a number of interesting ways to utilize the cards for holiday decorations without a great deal of time or expense, says Miss Jeanette Lee, director of the design department at Hallmark Cards.

For instance, you can pin or tape the cards to your Christmas tree branches as ornaments, or pin them to the curtains or draperies in the living room. If you have a paneled window you can tape a card to the glass in each panel.

Bulletin Board

Many smaller homes and apartments utilize a folding screen to separate living and dining room areas. The screen makes an ideal "bulletin board" for cards. Put the cards around the edge of the panels first, then fill in the center as more greetings arrive.

You can make attractive wall or over-the-mantel ornaments by cutting out a piece of cardboard in the shape of a Christmas stocking, a bell or a wreath and simply covering it with Christmas cards. Attach a ring to the back and hang it by a red ribbon. Or the same shapes can be outlined in ribbon on the wall. Just pin the cards to the ribbon.

You might also insert cardboard in the center of a real holly wreath, paste the cards flat on the board in a montage effect and then hang in a window.

If you have a stairway, by all means decorate it with garlands of greery and intersperse it with greeting cards.

Use Doors

A more elaborate way of decorating with Christmas cards is to use the doors of your home. Stretch rows of ribbon around a door very tightly. Attach small bows to give an added festive flavor. Clip the Christmas cards to the ribbon by paper clips as they are received. Or, cover the door with white or colored paper. A Christmas tree can be freely drawn with a crayon or you might want to cut out a tree of different colored paper. Ornaments may be attached at random. Then glue on the greeting cards.

Small cardboard tubes come in handy also. Cover them with paper to make candles. Equipped with paper "drippings" and crumpled red tissue or Cellophane "flame," decorated with foliage and mounted on a board, they easily become a card holder for the mantel or center of the table. Attach the cards with straight pins. The same idea may be used in a much larger version and become a floor decoration.

Calendar

Calendar notices and news for the society section of the Mail Tribune must be submitted in writing and within time for the bulletin edition is 4 p.m. Friday. Deadline for the weekly calendar is 9 a.m. of the day of publication and for week day news is 3 p.m. the day before publication.

Today:

2 p.m. – Olive Rebekah lodge and Odd Fellows lodge, IOOF hall.

3 p.m. – Derby Hoedowners, Derby Community hall.

Thursday:

10 a.m. – Medford chapter, Alpha Phi Alumnae, Rogue Valley manor.

8 p.m. – Medford Toastmistress club, Girls Community club.

8 p.m. – Reams chapter, order of the Eastern Star, Medford Masonic temple.

Helpful Hints For Preparing Turkey Given

New York – (UP) – Turkeys bring questions as well as delicious eating. The following queries and answers, suggested by the American Gas association, may help you get more flavor and food value from your noble bird.

Q. What's the fastest way to thaw a frozen turkey?

A. Place unwrapped bird in oven with low temperature control set at 155 degrees. An 8-pound bird will thaw in 3 hours, a 20-pound bird will reach 32 degrees in 5 hours.

Q. How do you prepare a turkey for roasting?

A. Remove the giblets and pinfeathers. Feel inside along the ribs to remove bits of lung. Singe off hairs. Wash the bird, inside and out, under cold water. Remove oil sac above tail. Pat dry and place in refrigerator until ready to cook.

Q. How much stuffing will a turkey hold?

A. About a scant cup of stuffing for each pound. A 15-pound bird will hold about 15 cups.

Q. Is it possible to roast a large turkey partly one day and complete cooking the next?

A. This is not a good idea. The roasting process should not be interrupted until the temperature of 165 degrees for an unstuffed or 165 degrees for a stuffed bird is reached.

Q. How should smoked turkey be cooked?

A. Like any cooked meat. To serve it hot, place it on a rack in a pan, add 1 cup water, cover and heat in a low oven (325 degrees) approximately 8 minutes per pound.

Easy Decoration

New York – (UP) – A heavy paste of baking soda and water can be sprayed on windows to make quick, pretty and safe holiday decorations. Use a spray gun, atomizer or nose spray for the solution. After it dries completely, you can change the pattern simply by wiping it with a terry cloth towel. It can be removed completely the same way.

Sisters Hostesses For Bridge Session

Yreka — Miss Jessie Coonrod and her sister, Mrs. Alice Davis, entertained their bridge club at the home of the latter in Yreka. Dessert was followed by bridge.

The rooms were festive with holiday decor, and the prizes were all articles to be used in preparation for the Christmas season.

Prizes for high score were won by Mrs. Effie Butler and Mrs. Jennie Mathews; second high by Mrs. Henrietta Terwilliger and Mrs. Ora McGregor, who also won one of the traveling prizes, and the other traveling prize went to Mrs. Ernest Williams. Other prizes were won by Mrs. Edna Muzzall and Mrs. Larry Walters.

The next meeting of the club will be on January 9 at the home of Mrs. Effie Butler in Yreka.

Cup, Saucer Club Holds Meetings

Montague – The Cup and Saucer Birthday club was entertained December 13 by Mrs. Don Gordon at her Montague home.

Dispensing the gifts, exchanged by the members, was a Pixie atop the piano with other holiday arrangements in the rooms. The December birthday of Mrs. Robert Akin was honored.

Eleven attended the meeting.

Refreshments were served from a table centered with a large white angel cake decorated with one large red candle and sprigs of holly.

The same group met at the home of Mrs. Alta Kreutzer in Yreka earlier in the week, this being the November meeting, which had to be postponed.

Son Here

Othar Ricey Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Othar Ricey, 90 West Glenwood road, is home for the holiday season. He attends Oregon State university, Corvallis, and is majoring in pharmacy.

Frosts Leave For Vacation

Wilderville—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Frost, orchid growers, have gone south for a winter vacation.

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Dog and Owner Story Subject

Yankee Blade, a poodle owned by Miss Helen Webster, former librarian of the Public Library of Medford and Jackson county and now of Ventura, Calif., was the subject of an article and picture in the December 13 issue of The Press-Courier in Oxnard, Calif.

Miss Webster, one of the librarians for the county of Ventura, and Yankee Blade appear at each of the county's 15 branch libraries during the Christmas season where they give the story of "Jolly's Christmas Giving."

Miss Webster tells the story of a dog and his Christmas giving and Yankee Blade acts out the part. The dog was taught by Miss Webster.

Both were recent valley visitors.

Copper Penny May Assist Antenna

New York – (UP) – Does your portable transistor radio refuse to pull in those distant stations?

Popular Electronics magazine here advises placing a copper penny on the set's cabinet — right over the built-in antenna. If it does the trick, fasten the penny to the case with sticking tape.

'Christkindl' Busy Place at Christmas

Vienna — (UP) — The post office at "Christkindl," (Christ Child) Austria, is undoubtedly one of the world's busiest during the Christmas season.

Actually, the town is called "Unterhimmel" (under Heaven), but in 1950, the Austrian post officials agreed to give it the "Christkindl" postmark primarily for handling Christmas mail to children.

In Austria it is the "Christkindl" who brings the presents and an Austrian child, writes to him just as children from other lands write to Santa Claus.

Millions of children have received mail with the Christkindl postmark since the practice started 12 years ago.

The special post office is set up, appropriately enough, in a village inn which has been known since the 18th century as the "Christkindl." many residents invited staff members to their apartments for smaller gatherings.

Col. Ralph Powell, president of the Rogue Valley Manor council, served as master of ceremonies.

One of the largest of the parties held at the Manor was a tea given several days ago by Mrs. F. M. Murdock. More than 100 guests attended. Mrs. Murdock was given the use of the adjoining apartments of friends to entertain the large number. Decorations were in the traditional Christmas red and white, but included an unusual pink Santa Claus.

Because of the size of the Manor, several large Christmas trees are used for the season. A lighted tree has been arranged outside, and the lobby stands a large tree trimmed entirely with red Christmas balls. The tree in the reception room is covered with cards signed by Manor residents — this is a central "greeting spot" and those living in the building do not then send other greetings to their neighbors.

A richly decorated tree lights up the auditorium, and the dining room there is an old-fashioned one strung with popcorn and cranberry loops.

"There are parties every afternoon and evening," is the report from the Manor.

Rogue Valley Manor Scene Of Many Holiday Parties

Women Are Honored

A noon luncheon, honoring the retiring Relief society presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was held recently at the church, 648 South Ivy street.

The luncheon was given by the new society presidency including Mrs. Hoyt F. Hay, Mrs. Keith S. Morgan, Mrs. Bruce A. Rawlins and Mrs. John A. Luke.

Honored were Mrs. Merlin C. Shipley, Mrs. Arthur E. Golden and Mrs. Elzy Kees Jr. These three women have been active in the Relief society for a total of 37 years.

During the luncheon Relief society pins and Christmas corsages were presented the retiring officers. The pins were inscribed with the Relief society motto, "Charity Never Faileth."

They were also presented a cake decorated in yellow and blue, the society's colors. Mrs. Shipley, who cut and served the cake, thanked the group on behalf of herself and her counselors.

The tables were decorated with holly, greenery and red candles. Favors were Santa Clauses.

The Relief society meets each Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the church where the women are instructed in theology, arts and crafts, literature and social science. The sessions are open to the public.

Fortnightly Club Meets

Ashland — Gay Christmas decorations and dessert refreshments, including Christmas pudding, were featured at the final meeting of 1962 by Fortnightly Study club members. Hostess for the holiday event was Mrs. M. P. Dunn, 69 Granite street. Mrs. Ruth King and Mrs. R. L. Crosby presided at the tea table.

"Christmas Customs Around The World" by Herbert Wernecke was an appropriate choice for the day's book review by Mrs. William Beagle. It is a compilation of folkways in all parts of the globe and throws new light on many strange observances.

"Despite a wide variance in background the kaleidoscope basically reflects the story of Bethlehem," said the reviewer.

"A Bundle of Ballads" collected by Ruth Manning-Sanders was the subject for Mrs. King's short topic. The beautifully illustrated book won the 1959 Kate Greenaway award in England.

From the age of minstrelsy into the more modern ballads the speaker chose several for reading aloud concluding with a suitable Christmas theme.

Florists Give Tips For Holiday Flowers

Washington – (UP) – Keep the holiday cut flowers fresh by heeding these tips, suggests the American Society of Florists:

—Place stems in deep warm water. Pour warm water into the container in which they will be arranged. Cut stem ends diagonally with a sharp knife. Remove all foliage below the water level. Add a commercial flower preservative to the water.

—Poinsettias and euphorbias have a milky substance or juice which should be sealed into the stem by quickly dipping stem ends one to two inches into boiling water.

—When stem ends get soft or decayed, recut the stems to remove that portion. When flowers wilt, recut stems and place in warm water.

'Prune People' Said To Bring Good Luck

New York – (UP) – A German legend says that Kleine Pflaume Maennchen, or Little Prune People, in the home at Christmas will bring good luck and good harvest for the coming year — even if you eat the fruit figures during the holidays.

The whimsical decorations are made from prunes and other dried fruits and nuts, all held together with flexible wire — often, picture wire. Clothing is made from wood and scraps of fabric. The characters traditionally include St. Nicholas and German fairy tale figures.

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