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Christmas for '45

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CHRISTMAS
for
'45

EXTENSION SERVICE
SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE COLLEGE
Brookings
U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
For the Children

Christmas will be here sooner than you think! Soon enough, anyway, to start thinking now about packing Santa's sack. All of which leads up to the suggestion of cutting down on the wear and tear of the annual Christmas shopping rush. Why not try your hand at a little home-made handiwork? Yield to that creative urge and give the tiny tots a break—instead of something to break, which is too often the result of a trip to town.

Simple blocks and boxes, stick horses, chairs, and dolls are the kind of toys that please the kiddies. Children like toys that satisfy their urge for action—action on their own part. They will not get that by sitting around and watching a small train or truck go whizzing by. That same sitting will not help develop muscular coordination or growth either. Toys that call for pushing, pulling, throwing, running, and jumping will. As for mental growth—that's stimulated by simple puzzles, picture books, building blocks, and spool boards. Just watch the kiddies at play, and you'll find that these toys are toys to them. They are also the kind of toys that can be made in only a few minutes. As for the materials—they're usually at hand in any home. Have your fun now, so the kiddies can have theirs come Christmas. Don't say it isn't fun to make toys until you have given it a try.

Dolls Do Delight

You can make a doll from a sock. Cut off the white toe of the sock. Cut the foot of the sock almost to the heel, and seam the two parts to form the legs. Cut off the white top of the socks to use for the cap. Stuff the sock with cotton and then gather the top of the stocking. Tie yarn around the neck and feet. Cut the toe of the stocking into two parts, stuff and sew on side of doll to make arms. Tie yarn around to make hands. Use embroidery floss to make the face. Scraps of cotton material from the scrap bag make a dress or suit. The dolls are soft, cuddly, and easily made.

The doll’s dress requires one large piece of material—approximately 24 inches wide and 4½ inches long—for the skirt, 2 strips 1½ inches wide and 6½ inches long for the straps over the shoulders, 2 strips 9 inches long and 1½ inches wide for the ruffle on the straps, and one piece 10 inches long and 1½ inches wide for the waist band. These requirements may vary depending on the size of sock used and the amount the sock is stuffed.

The romper is made from a piece of cloth 8 inches wide and 10 inches long, with two strips 7½ inches long and 1 inch wide for the suspenders. To cut the romper fold the large piece of cloth crosswise so that 8-inch edges are together at the top and fold is at the bottom. Cut a semi-circle from the lower outside edge so that outside length of romper will be 3 inches and strip between doll’s legs will be 2 inches wide. Sew up sides of rompers and then take up extra fullness around waist with pleats at center back and center front.

Child's Chair

Perhaps you would rather make a chair for the child. Like the one on the cover. For this you will need an apple box, some paint, and some material for a chair pad. First move one end of the box a little below the middle to make the seat. Mark an outline on the side of the box and saw to make the arms of the chair. Brace the back of the chair at top and bottom with half rounds. Cut openings in the side of the chair so that the child can move it easily. Drill holes at the top of the back and above the seat for the chair pad ties. Sand and paint the chair. The back and seat of the chair cover are padded and quilted so that it can be easily washed. The lower part is pleated.

An orange crate can also be used for a chair, by removing the top, moving the middle partition down a little, and cutting off the sides.

Stick Horse

For example: Get a boy’s sock and a broom handle and try your skill at making a stick horse. Use a three-foot piece of the broomstick, stuff the sock with cotton or excelsior and fit it over the end of the stick. The broomstick should be pushed well up through the cotton or excelsior, of course, and the sock opening tacked to the stick. After that you can proceed to suit your own fancy. If you prefer, you can outline the mouth and face with colored yarn and add buttons for eyes. Stuffed fingers of wornout gloves can be sewed on for ears. As for the bridle and harness, you can use a pair of shoes laces, strips of leather, an old belt, or a double fold of denim.

A Steed Made from a Sock and a Broom Handle

For a Small Child: Cuddly Dolls Made from Socks

*Assistant Home Management Specialist
These are only a few suggestions for the kiddies. Look about you at materials available, and you will find many other articles to make. Small wagons or animals to push or pull, soft animals to cuddle, a box of blocks to build into houses or trains, some bright pegs to push into holes in a board, a scrapbook to look at, or a cutout puzzle to put together; any of these will delight a small child.

Why not tuck a little toy or other gift in your overseas boxes again this year, so your loved one in a war-wrecked country may pass on to some small child the spirit of Christmas.

For Mother or Sister

Knitting Bag

A bag to hold knitting, mending, or other hand work will please almost any woman. The bag shown is made from glazed chintz. The body of the bag is interlined with two thicknesses of sheet blanket and the handle with unbleached muslin. (The pattern calls for crinoline, which is not now available.) The cardboard in the bottom is padded with knit underwear which gives sufficiently to fit snugly and, covered with the chintz, furnishes body when slip stitching the cardboard into the bag.

If outside and lining are the same, the bag requires 1 1/2 yards of 35-inch material. The interlining will take 1 1/4 yards. If a contrasting material is used for the lining, then 3/4 yard of 35-inch material is needed for the outside and 1/4 yard for the lining. Heavy duty thread was used for quilting. This is a commercial pattern. (Shown at the right.)

Something to Wear

Dickies or vests for suits or dresses are accessory articles which women like to have in a variety of colors, textures, and styles. Scarves are articles seldom worn out as such.

The vest shown was made from an attractive scarf. A slit at the neckline (bound), shirring at the sleeve line, and darts at the waist take care of the fitting. A jabot at the neckline adds the necessary decorative note.

Casserole or Pie Carrier

A case for carrying a pie, cake, or casserole to club meetings or other gatherings will appeal to those who like something different. To make, cut two circles each 16 inches in diameter. Cut a 7 1/2 inch circle from the center of one of these. Face the piece from which the 7 1/2 inch circle was cut with a one-inch fitted facing with openings in facing at either side and insert two drawstrings. Cut two strips of material 18 inches long and 2 1/2 inches wide for handles. Fold these pieces the long way, with right side inside and stitch a 1/4-inch seam. Turn right side out and stitch again on outer edges. Now place the two large circles together with right sides of material inside. Insert the handles on opposite sides of the circles and from the inside, having the inside edges of the handles 8 inches apart. Stitch a 1/2-inch seam around the outer edge of the two large circles. Turn the bag right side out. After the casserole, pie, or cake tin is slipped into the bag, the drawstrings will close the bag; and the bag can be carried by the handles. These handles have been put on at such a spacing as will prevent the food containers from tipping.

If desired the bag can be interlined and will then help to keep hot dishes hot. The carrier is shown with square-bib apron on page 10.

The carrier may be larger or smaller to fit the casserole or pan to be carried.

A Hat

Four afghan squares, three to go over the top and sides of the head and one to form the back can be sewn together with yarn to make a cap popular with the teen-agers. Use your favorite afghan square pattern with an interesting combination of colors of yarn.

Attractive hats for the young miss may also be made from felt in much the same fashion. Put together with gay wools, and trimmed with yarn flowers, they can be assembled in such a variety of styles as to suit any fancy. Instead of yarn, they may be trimmed with contrasting colors of felt cut in circles of different sizes; or cut in petal shapes, may be fashioned into flowers. Purse, belts, or lapel decorations made of felt to match the hat will provide a set sure to please. Purse may be round or square and closed with zippers or drawstrings. Lapel decorations may be dolls, flowers or tiny mittens, slippers or hats sewed to a safety pin so they can easily be fastened to the coat.
For a Traveling Friend: A Suitcase Cover

For the Traveler

If you have a friend or a member of your family who is a traveler, as most of us are these days, make some of these travel accessories: a suitcase cover to protect the precious luggage, a glove case and tissue cover, or some shoe cloths.

Suitcase Cover

The size, shape, and opening of the suitcase will determine the pattern needed for the cover. The cover shown in the illustration has a zipper opening corresponding with the opening of the bag. A slit required for the handle fastens with a fly and snaps and fasteners.

Glove Case and Tissue Box Cover

The glove case is made from rayon tafetta, interlined with outing flannel, and finished by quilting in 1-inch diagonal stitchings. Snaps close the case. A similar case may be made for tissue or a cover, as shown, may be made for a tissue box. A case similar to the tissue box cover, but not so deep, would hold a part of a box of tissue and would be easier to pack.

If the traveler does not already have them, she will appreciate a hose case, lingerie case and handkerchief case. These are made similar to the glove case but in suitable shape. The hose case too would be fitted with pockets.

Shoe Cloths

Shoe cloths may be made from remnants of outing flannel or other soft materials and are as equally welcome to the stay-at-home to the traveler. These are made from double thicknesses of the flannel. A jar of saddle soap or a box of shoe polish could be wrapped with the shoe cloths.

For the House

The many excellent ideas received through their Extension Club may be passed on by the members at Christmas time. They may interest new members in joining a club or even interest a new community in organizing. A well-padded, wide ironing board would be a suitable gift for a whole family. Ironing board covers, spice racks, and removable shelves for the kitchen cupboards; closet sets, clothes basket liners; home-made hand lotion are only a few of the other possibilities for individual gifts to the homemaker.

The Closet Set

The closet set could have a laundry bag added to the dress bag, shoulder cover, shoe bag, and umbrella bag.

The depth, width, and length of the garment bag will depend on the size of hangers used and the number and length of the dresses to be stored. This bag is 5 feet long, 9 inches wide, and 20 inches deep. In this length it requires 4½ yards of 35-inch material. This is another use for the versatile feed sack or the fertilizer bag. Two pieces of board are also needed, a 1-inch board for the top to support the hangers and another used in the bottom to shape and weight the bag that may be of lighter weight material. Various devices may be used on the top board to provide a means for holding the hangers. The hook of a dress hanger may be slipped through a hole in the center of the top board. The shoulder portion of the hanger can then be bent into loops and fastened to position with staples. Or a large hook may be screwed into the top of the board to hang the bag and small hooks similar to those used for hanging cups in the china cupboard may be screwed into the under side for the hangers.

A more substantial arrangement can be made by building a framework which will support a clothes rod. This framework requires two 20-inch lengths of 1" x 1½" lumber, two 4½-inch lengths of 1" x 3" lumber, one 8½-inch length of 1" x 3" lumber and 8½-inch length of broomstick and a large hook.

Nail two 4½-inch lengths to either end of the 8½-inch length of 1" x 3" lumber. Then nail the two 20-inch lengths to the top edge of this frame at right angles to the 8½-inch board. Insert the 8½-inch length of broomstick into holes cut in the open ends of the two 4½-inch lengths of 1" x 3" lumber. Screw the large hook into the center of the 8½-inch length board.

The bag fastens on the narrow side with a zipper or snaps. A zipper provides a more dust-proof closing. If snaps are used, there should be a wide lapping of the material.

The shoe bag requires 1½ yards of material. To make, cut a strip of the material 26 inches long and 20 inches wide for the body of the shoe bag. For the pockets cut two strips a yard long and 8½ inches wide. Each strip will make four pockets. The extra material is taken up in box pleats either at the side or center of the pockets.

Finish the top edge of the pocket strips before they are attached to
For the Car

Christmas for '45—South Dakota Extension Circular 418

It is convenient to have a small robe in the car in case the weather changes suddenly to the cool side. A small afghan can serve as a lap robe or as a shoulder throw.

A new version is the afghan made with a crochet hook with a hook at either end. The hook can be made from ¼-inch dowling and finished with sandpaper and wax. Directions for making the afghan are simple and easy to follow when two colors of yarn are used.

The afghan shown is approximately 2 by 3 feet in size. Four 4-ounce skeins of 4-ply yarn were used for the body (two of either color) and a 2-ounce skein was used for the border. A chain of 116 stitches was crocheted to start the afghan.

To start the afghan, crochet a chain of the desired number of stitches. Keep the last loop of yarn on your hook. Pick up the yarn of the second color and pull a loop of this color through the loop on your hook. Keep this loop on the hook and then crochet into each loop of the chain you have just made, keeping all of the stitches on the hook.

When this step is completed, turn your work and working from the other end of the hook pick up the original yarn with which you started and pull a loop through the first loop on the hook. Then catch the yarn again and pull it through this loop and the next loop of the second color now on the hook. Continue in this fashion, crocheting the stitches off your needle and at the same time making a second chain through the stitches.

When all the stitches are off the hook, pick up the second color of yarn again, draw a loop through the loop on the hook and then crochet again into the chain just made inserting the hook under the top thread of the chain.

Repeat these steps until the afghan is the desired length. Finish the afghan with a crocheted edging of an appropriate width.

To block, place the afghan on a flat well-padded surface. Pin the edges to the desired measurement with rust-proof pins about ½ inch apart. Place a damp cloth over the part pinned and press with a hot iron. Do not lean too heavily on the iron, but press sufficiently to allow steam to go through the article. Leave the afghan pinned until thoroughly dry. Then press another part.

Small Afghan Is a Lap Robe for the Driver
For someone you wish to please most make a rug or chair pad. Then include the directions for making it, so that she can make matching articles. The rug and pad shown are made from old materials, and even the smallest pieces can be utilized. Woolen or heavy cotton goods are preferable. Cotton carpet warp in a contrasting color is desirable as the stitch can be seen easily.

Cut the material into bias strips ½-inch wide. Cut on the true bias to prevent raveling.

String the strip on the needle (as in Fig. 1) inserting the hook end through the center of the strip at 1-inch intervals as evenly as possible, so that folds will be the same length. Do not let the strips twist. The strips on the needle should look like ribbon candy.

Strips as short as 1½ inch may be used. The strips need not be sewed together, since the two ends coming on the same side of the needle are treated as one fold of the material.

Make a slip knot in the end of the carpet warp. Holding the first fold of the material on the hook firmly between the thumb and second finger of the left hand, pull the loop of the carpet warp through this first fold. (Fig. 2.)

Now catch the carpet warp with your hook and pull it across the middle of the fold of the material and through the loop on your needle. This will lock the fold of the material. (See Fig. 3.)

Now pull off a second fold of the material on your needle and lock it in the same fashion. Continue until you have a core the length desired for the center of the rug. (This will be the difference between the length and the width of the finished rug.) Keep the crocheting tight so the rug will be firm. Do not twist the material on the hook.

To turn, let the work rest in your lap. Pull off a fold of material and lock it as before. Keep the loop of carpet warp on your needle. Skip one and insert the crochet hook between the second and third folds of the center core (back from the needle) and under the carpet warp that joins them (as in Fig. 4) and catch the carpet warp with the hook. You now have two loops of warp on your needle. Catch the carpet warp again and pull it through these two loops. Now pull off a fold of material from the hook, lock it and fasten this fold to the chain of carpet warp between the next fold back on the strip which is to be the core of the rug. Continue this procedure around the core.

As the rug gets larger it will be necessary occasionally to fasten two folds of the material from the needle to the carpet warp between the same folds on the body of the rug (especially at the corners) so that the rug will be flat.

To make a round rug or chair pad, crochet five folds of material off of the needle and join the two ends with a chain stitch through the starting loop, thus forming a center circle. Proceed as for oblong rug, except that two folds from the needle are fastened to the center core of the rug between each two folds forming this core.

There is no special finish for the edge. Fasten the carpet warp carefully with a needle when the rug is the desired size.
But if a tighter edge is desired, you may fasten two folds of the material from the needle between the folds on the body of the rug, as you did in turning the corners.

Of course you will want to work out an interesting pattern and a pleasing combination of colors.

Purses

Purses of woolen materials are easily made and can add an attractive note to a winter costume. A bag made of bright plaid wool can be worn with a dark dress or suit or a bag may be made of the same material as the dress.

The bag shown requires \( \frac{3}{8} \) yard of 35-inch (or wider) material, \( \frac{1}{2} \) yard of lining material, and \( \frac{1}{8} \) yard of crinoline. Canvas was used in place of crinoline, since crinoline is now difficult to obtain; and the bag was interlined throughout instead of just in the top as the pattern directions specified. This is a commercial pattern.

In the envelope with the pattern for this bag is a pattern for a smaller envelope type bag. This bag makes up more satisfactorily if the gathers are omitted since it is difficult to gather the wool, the interlining and lining. Two tabs too, when sewed to the ends of the bag, rather than to the zipper, add a neat finished appearance. This purse requires \( \frac{1}{8} \) yard of 39-inch material, \( \frac{1}{8} \) yard of lining and \( \frac{1}{8} \) yard of crinoline.

Christmas Sweets

**Soldier Boy’s Special**

- 1 cup sugar
- \( \frac{1}{2} \) tablespoon butter
- \( \frac{1}{2} \) cup cream
- \( \frac{1}{2} \) cup sugar chocolate
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Boil together until it forms a soft ball when tested in cold water. Have ready: \( \frac{1}{2} \) pound marshmallows, cut in small pieces; \( \frac{1}{2} \) cup nut meats; \( \frac{1}{2} \) cup graham cracker crumbs. Pour first mixture over second part and mix till marshmallows are melted, pour into 8 by 10 pan to cool. To send overseas, pour it into wax paper-lined boxes and do not cut in squares. It is very good.

**Fruit Bars**

- 1 c. syrup
- 1 c. chopped dates or raisins
- \( \frac{1}{2} \) c. flour
- \( \frac{1}{2} \) t. soda
- \( \frac{1}{2} \) t. salt
- \( \frac{1}{2} \) c. shortening
- \( \frac{1}{2} \) c. sour milk

Mix dry ingredients, cut in shortening and add milk gradually. Put \( \frac{1}{2} \) mixture on well-floured board and roll thin. Place in greased pan and spread with filling. Cover with remaining dough. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes. Cut in squares and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Mrs. Randolph Jacobsen, Yankton, S. D.
The Apron Parade

In introducing our apron parade we have tried to illustrate several points: The use of materials one has on hand during this time of shortages, the use of patterns designed by the Bureau of Home Economics of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and aprons for special purposes—for scrubbing, cooking, outdoor chores and for tea time.

The Mop Apron

Here is a one-job apron. It's a step-into apron for cleaning days. It holds your skirt up out of mop water and keeps you from catching your skirt on your heels. The pocket hangs free from the belt—convenience when you stoop at work. No need to buy new material to make this apron. If you have a man's discarded shirt, use it; you can make the apron with a little piecing.

If made of new material, it requires 2 yards of 35-inch material for the small size; 2½ yards, for the medium; and 2¾ yards, for the large. In 39-inch material 2 yards is required for the small; 2 yards, for the medium; and 2½ yards, for the large.

Bias Apron

Made of a dainty print or smart plaid, this bias apron is just the thing for church or club suppers. One square yard of goods makes the apron body and an extra half yard goes for pockets, straps, and band. Gathers nip in the waist, and a band with ties, applied over the gathers, gives shape. A single band holds shoulder straps together in the back so they cannot slide. The sash runs through two loops and ties at the center back.

Patchwork Trim

The attractive trim used on this apron is supplied by the scrapbag. Squares of print or checked gingham sewed together trim the bottom and pocket.

The pillow top would be more interesting if the patches had been applied in crazy quilt fashion.
Tea Apron

The tea apron can be made from one yard of material, chintz, dotted swiss or organdie or similar materials. To make, cut a circle 8 inches in diameter. Cut 2 inches off the top of the circle. The ruffle measures 7 inches wide and 1 1/4 yards long. Strips to make it are cut on the crosswise of the material. The belt tie is 4 1/2 inches wide and 2 3/4 yards long.

From A Man’s Shirt

The tails of a man’s shirt make this apron. The back tail forms the center of the apron. The front tails overlap and are stitched to form pockets on either side. Good strips from the sleeves make the waist band and ties.

From An Overall

This apron is made from such small pieces as might be good in a man’s discarded overall. It might also be made from scraps left when making other garments. It will be a favorite with those who like a small apron.

The Basket Apron

The basket and scrub apron are two of the aprons designed by the Bureau of Home Economics for special purposes. Designed for double duty the basket apron may be a serviceable round-the-house apron, or pull the drawstring and you have a basket for carrying eggs, ears of fresh corn, or other garden products. Make it of sturdy cotton and use strong drawstrings that slip easily through the edge casings. Shoestrings are excellent for this purpose. The apron requires 1 1/4 yards of material for the small size, 1 1/4 yards for the medium and 1 3/4 yards for the large size. In 39-inch material 1 yard is needed for the small size; 1 1/2 yards, for the medium; and 1 3/4 yards, for the large. (Illustrated on next page.)
Basket Apron, Either for the House of Garden

Square-Bib Apron

The square-bib apron designed by the Bureau of Home Economics is a real coverall and a three-way time saver, quick to make, quick to put on, and quick to iron. Cut crosswise of the goods, it has the bib and skirt in one piece. Shoulder straps can be pulled far apart so you need not rumple your hair when you slip the apron on. The V-shaped waist piece and the skirt fasten over one easy-to-reach button in the back.

Material required is 2 yards for small size; 2 ½ yards, for medium; and 2 ¾ yards, for large in 36-inch width.

Square-Bib Apron and Casserole Carrier

For the "Chef"

A chef's apron and cap and a pair of oven mitts would be something different for the man of the house who likes to cook either outdoors or inside. The apron and cap are made from unbleached muslin or other heavy white cotton material. The oven mitts are made from Canton flannel or can be made from the unbleached muslin and interlined. The palms and the inside of the thumbs may be padded so as to provide additional protection for the hands when handling hot dishes. The set would require 2 yards of material.

The apron is a yard long and a yard wide at the bottom. The bib is 11 inches wide at the top. The sides of the apron are 25½ inches long. A rounded piece of material cut out of the corners between these points is all the cutting required other than for the neckband, pocket, and ties. However, a pattern is included in the pattern kit.

Cut two pieces 24 inches by 1½ inches for neckbands, one piece 18 inches by 11 inches for a pocket, and two strips 24 inches by 2½ inches for ties.

Lay 24-inch sides of each neckband piece together, stitch along sides and across one end. Turn, press, and stitch along edges. Hem around sides and one end of ties. Make a ¼-inch hem around the entire apron inserting the ends of the neckbands at outer edge of bib and the unhemmed end of ties at side of apron. Turn the neckband strips up and ties out and stitch again at outer edge of hem to strengthen. Hem the top of the pocket and stitch to apron 9 inches from the bottom. Stitch center of pocket to center of apron so as to form two pockets.

To make the chef's hat, cut one circle 22 inches in diameter and for the band one piece 24 inches by 11 inches. Seam the 11-inch ends of the hat band together and press open. Gather outer edge of circle to 23 inches. Pin to one edge of band, right sides together. Distribute gathers evenly. Stitch along gathering line. Turn under ¼ inch along free edge of band and slip stitch turned edge to seam line on wrong side.

A pattern is included for the mitts.

For Your Barbecue Chef: Apron, Mitts, and Cap
Christmas in the Home

No memories of childhood are more vivid than the Christmas ones. Did Santa Claus come to your house Christmas Eve after the program at the church or did he come during the night so you woke the household anywhere from 4 to 6 o'clock in the morning? Did you put a candle in the window to light the Christ child? Did you always have goose, or was it turkey? The family traditions surrounding the observance of Christmas are remembered long after the much-desired skates, or sled, or doll are broken.

Christmas centers around the children in the family. Let the children have their share in the giving too. Grandmother will prize the needle book or pincushion or dish towel made by granddaughter more than anything you can buy her.

Do you have a certain time to trim the tree and the home? Everybody in the family could take part. Dad will probably be the most enthusiastic decorator of all. Home-made decorations with everybody helping is also a fine family custom. Bits of colored construction paper, scraps of yarn, paste, blunt scissors are the makings. Paper can be cut in the shape of animals, angels, snowmen, stars, Santas. Bits of colored felt make wonderful decorations. Paper chains go well with this type of tree decorations.

One lady we know decorates her tree with miniature dolls and animals collected as souvenirs. There are animals and dolls of painted cork, felt and beads on wire. Miniature moccasins, tiny woolly dogs, tiny flowerpots decorate the tree which is a special delight to the children.

At one home the children are turned loose in the kitchen with a bowl of cookie dough, a few colored candies and raisins, cookie cutters and paper patterns of camels, Santas, candy canes. Some of the cookies are included in each Christmas package sent from the home. A basket of Christmas goodies to a less fortunate family, to elderly friends of the family, or shut-ins would be a project everybody in the family could enjoy.

A very vivid memory of another woman is the carol singing the week before Christmas. Young people of the church would gather each evening and go about the small town singing the beloved Christmas carols outside the homes of sick, invalided, or elderly people who would not be able to attend the Christmas program. The evening ended at one of the caroler’s homes for cocoa and cookies or popcorn and apples. Don’t worry about beautiful voices, the old much-loved Christmas songs, the sharp air of winter, and the Christmas season will make the caroling beautiful.

With all of us the family gatherings are among the most cherished memories of Christmas Day. Beginning with the hustle and bustle in the kitchen in the morning with mother and sister getting the dinner cooking, the final putting the house in order, and then the excitement of watching for the first guest to arrive. Perhaps it was Uncle Joe and Aunt Louise and their family or older sister Ann with her husband and the new baby. Then grandfather and grandmother and the other aunts, uncles and cousins all rushing in, each trying to be the first to call “Merry Christmas.” Then the dinner, trying out the new toys, a walk in the crisp air, and then the scramble of leaving taking.

In a complicated world, keep Christmas something for the home, something to be remembered.

Etiquette for Christmas Cards

Women like to know the correct way to do things. If signatures are being printed on the Christmas cards, the more correct form is to use “Job, Mr., Mrs., or Miss do not form part of a signature. However, cards printed with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Smith are widely used and accepted.

Signing individual cards by hand gives you the advantage of selecting a card to suit the person to whom it is sent.

Informally speaking, friendly cards for immediate friends and members of the family may well be signed “The Andrew Smiths” or “Sally and Andrew.” If in doubt as to whose name is placed first: If Fred, the husband’s name is placed first; if written, the wife’s name goes first. However, if you use your child’s name, always place your husband’s name first.

When addressing cards to married people, address the envelope “Mr. and Mrs.” even if you do not know both. When sending cards to a business acquaintance, address to the individual. Such cards may be sent to the office or direct to the home address.

If you are sending only one card to a household write the names:

Mr. and Mrs. John Brown
The Misses Mary and Gale Brown

Christmas cards are personal messages, so the envelopes should be addressed by hand in ink, watching initials and spelling of names carefully. If sending unsealed using 2 cent stamps, write only a greeting such as “Merry Christmas,” no other message.

Your name and address may be written on the envelope, serving as a return address and letting the person to whom it is sent know your correct address.

Watch for Yule Fire Hazards

Be especially careful of fire this year. Don’t use candles for the tree trim. Check your tree lights. Poor wiring is dangerous. After testing the many different chemicals and methods that have been suggested for fireproofing the Christmas tree, wood experts of the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture conclude that keeping the tree standing in water is still the most practical and convenient way to make it fire resistant and also to prevent the needles from discoloring or falling. The fresher the tree, the more easily it takes up water, so the experts advise getting it in water as soon as possible after cutting. Cut off the end of the trunk, diagonally at least an inch above the original cut end. Stand the tree at once in a container of water and keep the level of the water above the cut surface during the entire time the tree is in the house. If the tree is not to be set up for several days, keep it in a cool place while it waits.

Make a Diagonal Cut an Inch Above Original Cut
To Save Your Christmas Tree

Christmas for '45—South Dakota Extension Circular 418
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