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Ann Sindt
Iowa State University

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Placing the last candle in her Mexican Christmas tree is Miss Emelda Kunau.

Creating the Air of Christmas

by Ann Sindt, H. Jl. 2

The Yuletide spirit comes alive every year when pines are decked with lights and ornaments, boughs of evergreen are hung on front doors, and bright red candles illuminate the Creche on mantle pieces. As expressed by Miss Emelda Kunau, assistant professor of applied art, "It is getting ready for the holiday that sets the proper mood."

Miss Kunau practices this philosophy each year by decorating her apartment with a variety of ornaments and unique objects which she has collected over the years. This year her display includes a number of Mexican articles which she purchased during her visit there at Thanksgiving. A Mexican candelabra of silver-colored tin with blue-green candles has a prominent place on the mantle. Quantities of Austrian pine and some pine cones surround the object.

The wall above the fireplace accommodates a reproduction of the painting "Journey of the Magi," done by Sassetta. It was clipped from a magazine a few years ago and mounted and framed to obtain a striking ancient effect, making it appear like the original. Miss Kunau made two-dimensional sun-burst stars which she has used to create an effective setting for the painting. A candle standing just below illuminates this center of interest in the evening.

A colorful Mexican Christmas tree of blue tin, with candles at the tip of each bough, helps make up the dining-table centerpiece. Two large straw angels and several small Mexican figures, arranged around the tree, enhance the atmosphere of the room.

A table in the living room features a lighted candle floating in a bowl of water and oil. Sprigs of evergreen encircle the dish. On this and other tables lie Christmas books collected by Miss Kunau which guests can easily pick up and read.

A linen wall-hanging, which shows the Nativity characters surrounded by printed Christmas verses, hangs in the hall and greets guests as they arrive. Visitors to Miss Kunau's apartment can choose from a variety of Christmas cookies and fruitcake, served with hot cranberry punch, spiced tea, or coffee.

Miss Kunau believes that in preparing for and
celebrating Christmas, one should, above all, hold thoughts of friendliness and sharing. One feels, after glancing around her home, that she has successfully incorporated these ideas into her decorating.

Also creating the festive spirit with Christmas preparations is Miss Pilar Garcia, assistant professor of food and nutrition. Although she has had no formal training in art work, Miss Garcia enjoys creating with scissors and paper.

Many of her Christmas decorations are attractive paper cut-outs. The refreshment table for her apartment party will be adorned with a decorative centerpiece which she made from gold foil paper. In making it, she used a basic figure-eight design. A number of these foil figure-eights extend from the base of a large red candle. The ends are then brought up and attached to the side of the candle, creating a swirled effect. Boughs of evergreen are many decorative paper cut-outs. The refreshment table for her favorite traditional Christmas preparations is the making of Spanish rolls. This is a very rich coffee cake made in a round pan. It has a most enticing flavor; and "It would not be difficult to eat a whole pan of the rolls at once," says Miss Garcia.

It is her belief that sometimes there is just too much activity during this season and not enough time to sit and reflect on the meaning which all the preparation should have for each of us. The "thought" to which both Miss Garcia and Miss Kunau referred is carried in a Christmas poem entitled "Leisure"

I shall attend to my little errands of love
Early, this year,
So that the brief days before Christmas may be
Unhampered and clear
Of the fever of hurry. The breathless rushing
that I
Have known in the past
Shall not possess me. I shall be calm in my soul
And ready at last
For Christmas: "The Mass of the Christ." I shall kneel
And call out His name;
I shall take time to watch the beautiful light
Of a candle's flame;
I shall have leisure — I shall go out alone
From my roof and my door;
I shall not miss the silver silence of stars
As I have before;
And, oh, perhaps — if I stand there very still,
And very long —
I shall hear what the clamor of living his kept from me:
The angel's song!  
— author unknown

It's open season for snacking! Today's small appliances offer a fine and easy way to entertain your dorm friends or sorority sisters at late evening snacks, birthday parties or Sunday evening meals. These handy pieces of equipment, easily stored on a closet shelf, are not only nice to have now while you are in school but will be even more useful when you have a home of your own.

Modern electric skillets are perfect for unscheduled parties and Sunday evenings when you don't want to take time to go out to eat. With its dependable heat control there's nothing better for sautéing hamburgers, toasting sandwiches, scrambling eggs, or for popping a panful of corn in only minutes.

The familiar pop-up toaster is available in sizes for toasting one to four sizes of bread. This appliance is the answer for the breakfast-skipper or the afternoon snacker. For variety, toast slices of poundcake, split muffins or rolls, frozen waffles — top with jam, honey, jellies.

The perfect companion for late studying is an automatic coffee percolator of generous size. This now comes with a control for making the brew of your choice — strong, medium, or mild — and for keeping coffee hot.

New this year on the equipment market is the drink mixer. Make frothy hot cocoa drinks, sparkling ice cream or sherbet sodas, milk shakes, or fancy fruit punches. This gadget also whips up the smoothest cheese dips and spreads ever.

Or you might invest in an electric griddle for pancakes, grilled sandwiches, or French toast.

The new hot-dog cooker would perhaps be a little impractical for dorm cookery because of its lack of versatility, but it would be fun to have at home. In 80 seconds this appliance cooks six frankfurters to perfection, giving you barely enough time to split and butter the rolls. Your guests will be fascinated to see how it works: Attach each end of the weiner to an electrode in the bottom half of the cooker. With the lid closed, current shoots through to cook franks crisp but juicy.

Perhaps several of you or even your residence could invest in a table oven. This appliance, with its accurate, controlled heat, bakes a pizza or biscuits, cake, pie, and casserole dishes. Two generous racks make it possible to cook for quite a crowd. Operating from any convenient outlet, it is ideal for the thaw-and-warm-up job needed by the many frozen supper dishes and desserts you find in stores today.

If your parents are still searching for what to put under the tree, why not show them this article?