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Decorate for Christmas Festivity

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Decorate For Christmas Festivity

June Hudek describes easy-to-make decorations for every part of the home during the holiday

INDIVIDUALITY gives variety and sparkle to holiday decorations which express the seasonal spirit. Arriving home after finals, home economics students will look forward to decorating the house from the front door to the mantel.

The postman may be relieved from the task of stuffing large supplies of Christmas mail into the regular box if a flat container decorated with cedar boughs or ribbon is tacked under the mail box to hold the excess.

The proud possessor of traditional sleigh bells may create a novel doorbell for the holiday by painting the leather harness a red enamel and hanging the bells on the door. If no sleigh bells are available, five pine cones of various sizes, secured with bright red ribbon and hung from a large red oilcloth will decorate the door frame.

Lights may be used in red cellophane Christmas bells. A group of three hung in the center of a green wreath and placed on the door extend a cheery greeting.

One effective centerpiece for the Christmas table is a crystal bowl filled with an arrangement of cedar

men made from different sized popcorn balls and wearing small stocking caps may carry clever signs written for each guest.

Angels, with a cone-shaped body of white or silver paper and an angelic expression painted on a face made from a ping pong ball, may be used for table or



An overturned bowl is the base for tapers fastened with clay in concealed tin lids



A centerpiece of short-stemmed red rose buds is complemented by evergreens and a crystal rock

boughs and large Christmas tree balls. A small pine log holding several tapers also provides an attractive table decoration. To prevent it from rolling, a small stick can be nailed horizontally on the underneath part of the log near each end. Bayberry candles create a spicy odor and the tallow drippings lend added interest to the pine log. Placing the log on a mirror that is surrounded by cotton enhances the decoration.

A centerpiece suitable for children's parties or a buffet supper may be built around a mirror representing an ice pond. Cotton surrounding the mirror is arranged to give the effect of hills and valleys and is sprinkled with snow flakes. Small evergreen trees of tiny pine twigs may dot the cotton countryside. Snow-

mantel decorations. A pipe cleaner creates an effective halo and the wings may be cut from paper. Pipe cleaners also form the hands in which the angel can hold a tiny song book. Three of these figures placed on a mirror and surrounded by candlelight give an ethereal effect.

For a Christmas change, all of the books from the central shelf of a book case may be removed and a manger scene arranged with a background of cedar boughs.

The mirror above the mantel or buffet offers many possibilities. Stars cut from last year's gold and silver Christmas cards can be pasted on the mirror with graduated tapers in the foreground. This reflects light behind the stars.

Artistic students would enjoy lettering a favorite Christmas verse in English script on the mirror, using poster paint. Holly leaves and berries provide a festive border. The tempora or watercolor will wash off quickly and easily.

Twigs or evergreen branches may be dressed up with a frosty snow which is decorative and non-melting. Soap flakes mixed with a small amount of water and beaten until fluffy furnish the snow. Dip the twigs into this mixture and allow them to dry and decorate the table or mantel with the silvery sticks. If artificial snow is sprinkled on the fluffy soap more light will be reflected from the surface. Children enjoy windows decorated with this soap mixture. Applied in scallops it makes the windows resemble an icy palace.

Place cards are fun to make. Cards resembling song books have the guest's name placed on the music staff. Santa Claus, reindeers, Christmas trees, sleighs and toys are other timely subjects for holiday place cards.