

MERRY CHRISTMAS HINTS FROM HOLLYWOOD



In this series of pictures, Julie Bishop, screen and TV actress, shows some of the "do's and don'ts" to be observed around your Christmas tree to assure a Safe and Happy Holiday. Julie is cooperating with the service bureau of Employers Mutuals of Wausau, Wis., to prevent home accidents which are more prevalent at Christmas than at any other time of the year. 1—Be careful decorating the top of the tree. 2—Always use fireproof ornaments. 3—Water the tree often and don't keep it after it dries out.



The next hint for Christmas safety is demonstrated by Julie Bishop's husband, Colonel Clarence A. Snoop, who stands too close to the tree with a lighted cigarette so, No. 4 rule is: Be careful about smoking near the tree or around gift wrappings and boxes. 5—Julie, her husband and children, Pamela and Stephen, aren't going to throw all those wrappings into the fireplace at one time because paper burns so rapidly that flames might easily get out of control.

—Photos courtesy of Employers Mutuals of Wausau

CHRISTMAS IN JAPAN
FAR EAST (PHOTO)—Christmas and New Year's holidays are to be spent in Kobe, Japan by the USS Los Angeles.

Serving aboard the heavy cruiser is Robert C. Jones, fireman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Jones of Suit, N. C.

The Los Angeles rejoined the U. S. Seventh Fleet in early December for her third tour of duty in the Far East.

The visit to the Japanese tourist and trade center is being made in line with the Navy's policy of giving personnel a chance to see the Japan that lies beyond regular Naval bases, and to promote goodwill between U. S. citizens and Japanese nationals.

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GARDEN TIME

BY ROBERT SCHMIDT

Because of the response to my article of last December on the poinsetta, I am repeating the article with some additions.

The poinsetta has long been a popular Christmas plant but probably few people have given much thought to the fact that it does come into bloom each year only at this season. The so-called blooms are really leafy bracts which color up a brilliant red. The true flowers are the small insignificant yellowish cups found in the center of the whorl of red bracts. The poinsetta is one of a group of plants known as short day length periods, preferably ten hours or less. That is why it is always in bloom during the Christmas season and not during the summer. It could be prevented from blooming now by lengthening the day light period to 15 hours by means of artificial lights. Flower growers have learned how to bring garden chrysanthemums into bloom any month of the year by using shading cloth to shorten the days and artificial lights to lengthen the days. The chrysanthemum is also a short day plant.

How can one keep a poinsetta plant until next season? After its usefulness is over, place it in the basement or some dry place where it will not freeze. Do not water it (or at least very little) and let the soil dry up. Next May bring the plant out, cut the stem back about two thirds, wash the old soil off the roots and re-pot in new soil. From then on handle it like any other plant. Softwood cuttings taken in July and rooted will give you good Christmas bloom.

A good potting soil can be made by mixing equal parts of sandy soil, clay loam, and well rotted stable manure.

The poinsetta is not an ideal Continued on Page Eight

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