

### Paraffin, Plastic Help Brighten Christmas

NEW YORK (UP)—Paraffin snow and plastic glitter can turn the living room into a Santa Claus setting that's fancier this year than ever.

Plastic tree ornaments, feather light and made in unorthodox shapes, are on the market in shades ranging from magenta to pale pink and from chartreuse to vivid blue. Red and green are in the minority.

A new non-melting paraffin coating has been used by the Premier Decorating Co. to give table centerpieces and mantel decorations a very realistic coat of snow. One of the most elaborate table centerpieces is a steeped church with Santa's sleigh and eight reindeer suspended in the sky overhead.

For the Christmas tree there are new candle-shaped electric lights, bulbs set in frosty plastic stars to resemble snowflakes, and tiny plastic figures of animals and Christmas figures to map over regular tree lights. You can arrange your string of lights just to fit your tree with the new snap-on bulbs.

put out by Noma Many Prefer Greenery

When it comes to adding holiday touches to the house, plenty of houses still prefer to pass up the fancy ornaments and make their own arrangements of fresh greens and bright red ribbon.

Jack Kelly, a florist whose Christmas decorations grace many a penthouse hearth, has plenty of suggestions that can be done at home.

"A lot of my customers, even though they're very chic, insist on traditional red and green Christmas decorations," Kelly said. So he uses fresh pine and holly in novel ways.

He uses two tall candlesticks, about 30 inches high, holding gigantic candles, on the floor on either side of the fireplace. The holders are gilded and then wound with garlands of green with deep red felt artificial roses tucked along the garland.

"You could make the candlesticks from old balustrades," he explained.

Tinsel and the same artificial cabbage roses make a sophisticated chandelier decoration. Just wind the tinsel around the chandelier and scatter a few big roses where they'll show off.

Drum Idea Used

One of Kelly's cleverest Christmas suggestions is a door decoration made from a child's toy drum.

"Cut a small hole in the top of the drum and push in a few greens," he said. "Tack a piece of red ribbon to the back of the drum to hang it on the door. Then tie the drum sticks to the drum with longer pieces of red ribbon."

And there, Kelly said, you will have a combination decoration and door knocker. The guests can signal their arrival with the drum sticks.

He also does things like dyeing door mats green and painting "welcome" in red. Or he makes an unusual table centerpiece by combining fresh red roses with white branches and a bunch of real green grapes.

"You don't have to have expensive props to make effective decorations," Kelly said. "You do need a little imagination and an early start on holiday planning."

### CLAIM TO ROYALTY UNDER FIRE



THE YOUNG MAN who describes himself as "Prince Otto Wilhelm von Hohenzollern" is shown in Mexico City with his bride, the former Virginia Kirk of New Orleans, and her mother, Mrs. Adele Kirk. Members of the German royal family have branded him as an impostor. A Bamberg, Germany, umbrella maker says the "Prince" is his son, who has been missing since 1944 when reported killed in action. (International)

### WILL WAMPUM REPLACE A-BOMB?

SANTA BARBARA, Calif.—(AP)—American Indians used wampum for more than just money, says Dr. Wilbur R. Jacobs, Santa Barbara College historian. He reports wampum figured importantly in diplomatic relations among tribes.

Jacobs says belts were used to cement alliances, prevent disputes, and also to identify messengers and "ambassadors" to tribal councils.

### FALSE ALARM

BOSTON (UP)—Years ago a vigil light was placed in a window of the House of Good Shepherd, a Catholic home for girls. It had been burning in the same window ever since. The other day a passer-by thought the building was afire and turned in an alarm.

### William Benton

FORMER Assistant Secretary of State William Benton (above) is shown shortly before he was appointed the new Senator from Connecticut by Gov. Chester Bowles, his former business partner. He succeeds Sen. Raymond Baldwin, who vacated his seat to become a Justice of the State Supreme Court. (International)

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### A TOUGH JOB FOR SANTA

CHICAGO—(AP)—Give the Kids Christmas gifts that will make them use their heads and hands, advises Miss Melba Reay, instructor of arts and crafts at George Williams college, Chicago.

"Because most toys are ready-made, children are learning to expect ready-made answers or printed instructions for all of life's problems, and never have a chance to develop the imaginative, creative spirit and skill that are so urgently needed in the adult world," she says. "Children need practice in executing their own ideas with their hands."

### CALL OF THE WILD IS TOO WILD

PASADENA, Calif.—(AP)—Bill, the raccoon portion of the Bill Sehrman family, is back home. He tasted freedom with his wild brethren—and they can have it.

The pet broke out of his pen at the Sherman's mountain cabin. But three weeks later came a scratching at the door. Outside, the Shermans saw Bill, bloody, torn and whimpering.

"The family's theory: Bill tangled with wild cousins who didn't take to his sleek, home-fed appearance."

The first lighthouse erected by the federal government was a sandstone structure built in 1791 on the tip of Cape Henry, Virginia. Still standing today, it served for 90 years before being retired in favor of a taller, iron light.

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**The Bristol**  
SMALL HOUSE PLANNING BUREAU

The Bristol's side entry leads directly to the basement. It also has a convenient coat closet, other closets in The Bristol include a closet in every bedroom, a linen closet in the kitchen and a lunch cabinet in the bedroom hall.

The modern kitchen has cabinets and equipment arranged on two of its walls. The leave-a-wall for a breakfast set.

Plans of The Bristol call for frame construction with stone. However, concrete or masonry blocks can easily be substituted for the frame. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Overall dimensions of The Bristol are 24 feet by 38 feet. There is a floor area of 912 square feet and a volume of 17,328 cubic feet, including a full basement.

For further information about THE BRISTOL, write the Small House Planning Bureau, St. Cloud, Minn.

**THE BRISTOL** is suitable for a narrow city lot. It has a plan which calls for only a 24 foot width. Rooms in The Bristol are two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a small dining room.

The Bristol's front entrance has a covered stoop. It enters the living room through a vestibule equipped with a handy coat closet.

**Small House Planning Bureau**  
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Please send me more information, without obligation, about the plan features and the type of construction used in THE BRISTOL House as pictured in The Mountaineer.

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