



SANTA AND FRIENDS—Ronata Wingo, left, and Sunshine Childers talk with Santa about their Christmas wishes.



KRISTINA WHEELER is looking forward to Christmas and talks with Santa.

Legends of the season

There are many charming legends associated with the holiday season; one of the best-known is the legend of the Christmas rose.

According to the story, a young girl followed the shepherds to the stable in Bethlehem. Learning of the Christ Child's birth, she longed to go in and worship Him, but felt ashamed because she had no gift to offer Him.

Tears of disappointment fell from her eyes and as they touched the ground, a bush sprang up, bearing a beautiful white rose. Joyfully, the young girl picked the rose and took it in to lay before the Infant.

The legend of the Glastonbury thorn involves Joseph of Arimathea, who journeyed to Britain after the death of Christ. Coming to the town of Glastonbury, Joseph sat down to rest, thrusting his staff into the ground. It immediately took root and gave forth branches and green leaves. Every year after that, the thorn tree would bloom at Christmas.

Another legend tells of the poor shoemaker who lived on the edge of a village, near the woods. Each night he would place a candle in his window to guide travelers.

Miraculously, that candle light never wavered, inspiring others to place candles in their windows at Christmas time.

A beautiful legend explains the fir tree's association with Christmas. It seems that a young boy came knocking at the door of a forester's hut one stormy Christmas Eve. The forester's son gladly gave up his bed so that the exhausted child could sleep.

The next morning, the family heard angels singing and discovered that their guest had been transformed into the Christ Child. In gratitude for the family's hospitality, the Child broke off a branch from a fir tree and planted it in the ground, promising that it would always be green at Christmas time.

These ornaments are fun to make and decorate!

Children love making ornaments at Christmas time — here's an easy recipe for bread dough ornaments that they can help make and then decorate:

Mix 4 cups of flour and 1 cup of salt in a bowl, using a wooden spoon or rubber spatula. Add 1½ cups of water slowly, mixing as you pour. You may need more water, depending on the humidity, but keep the dough stiff for best results.

Knead dough for 10 minutes; when texture is soft and smooth, it will be ready for cutting.

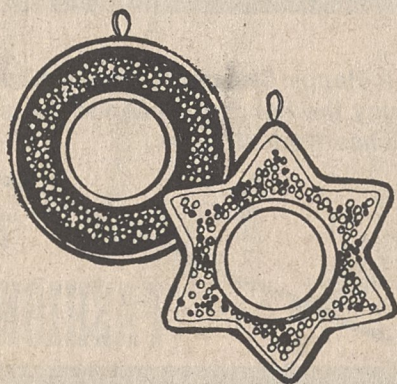
Have the youngsters shape the ornaments with cookie cutters, inserting hooks into the dough at this time.

Bake dough in a 325° to 350° oven and no hotter. The ornaments should be rigid when removed from the oven.

Allow them to cool and let the kids take over, decorating them with poster paint or tempera. They can also sprinkle them with cake decorations, using regular white glue.

To keep the finished ornaments looking pretty longer, spray them with an acrylic gloss; this will also give them a nice shine.

Hang the ornaments on the Christmas tree for all to admire, or have the youngsters give them as gifts.



Letter Policy

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor. We request that you follow these guidelines when submitting a letter for publication:

All letters must be signed and must include the name, address and telephone number of the writer. Typed letters must be signed in ink.

Letters should be brief and to the point.

The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for spelling, good taste, libel or any other reason.

The Herald reserves the right to reject any letter for any reason.

Letters to the editor must be mailed to the Kings Mountain Herald, P.O. Box 752, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Hand-delivered letters will not be published.

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Darrell Austin
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