

KM Woman Brings Sea Home For Christmas

Bessie Crawford of 508 West Gold Street, Kings Mountain, will have her warm summer thoughts of the Atlantic Ocean to keep her warm during the cold winter days that lie ahead.

Mrs. Crawford has loved the sea for as long as she can remember, and for many years has been a collector of sea shells.

Five years ago, she turned her hobby into a Christmas tradition at her home.

Each year, the six-foot high Christmas tree than stands in the living room of her and her husband, Raymond's home, is decorated with sea shells, sand dollars and a star fish, which is used for the star.

Since her original idea five years ago, members of her family and friends have contributed to the hobby by supplying her with shells and sand dollars on each occasion to go to the beach.

Her daughter, Becky Atkinson, used to live in Myrtle Beach, and one of her friend's father operated a shrimp boat. He supplied her with a number

The Legend Of The Sand Dollar

Upon this odd shaped sea shell,
A legend grand is told
About the life of Jesus
The wondrous tale of old.

The center marking plainly shows
The well known Guiding Star
That led to tiny Bethlehem,
The Wise Men from afar.

The Christmas flower, Poinsettia
For His Nativity;
The Resurrection, too, is marked
The Easter Lily, see-

Five wounds were suffered by our Lord
From nails & Roman's spear
When He died for us upon the cross
The wounds show plainly here-

Within the shell, should it be broke-
Five Doves of Peace are found
To emphasize this legend
So may Peace & Love abound.

-Author unknown.

of souvenirs for the tree, as well as a giant sea shell which is also displayed in her living room.

Another daughter, Ann Kellar, and her husband have made numerous fishing trips to Mexico and have collected sand dollars to add to the collection.

Her third daughter, Brenda Hinson, and her son, Danny, her grandchildren, and a close friend, Ethel McGinnis, also contribute.

"When members of my family go off on vacation, they don't have to worry about what kind of souvenir to bring me," says Mrs. Crawford. "They can just get me a seashell."

In addition to her ocean Christmas tree ornaments, she has seashell collections, pictures made from seashells, and other ocean souvenirs which decorate her living room the year round.

"I just love the sea," she said. "The gifts I get usually pertain to the sea. I get kidded a lot about my seashells, but it's something different, and the grandchildren really like it."



Photo by Gary Stewart

SAND DOLLAR TREE - Mrs. Raymond Crawford of Kings Mountain each year decorates this Christmas tree with sand dollars and a star fish. She began the hobby because of her love for the ocean, and family and friends each year contribute by bringing her souvenirs from the sea.

Christmas Customs Are Many

Christmas is the loveliest time of the year. Even the most sophisticated seem to get caught in the spirit of the season. They pause to listen to carols, smile at children whose faces show wide-eyed wonderment when pressed against festive store windows, and even drop contributions for sidewalk Santas.

All of this often conjures up pleasant thoughts of Christmases past. This is a wonderful season to ponder the many customs that make the holiday season so special.

There are so many customs, brought from all over the world and from all periods of history, that have become a part of our Christmas customs.

Music is an important part of this holiday. One of the most popular of all the carols is "Silent Night." It was written quite by accident because an organ broke down.

Joseph Mohr, a poor parish priest in the Austrian Tyrol region more than 150 years ago, was upset when the old organ refused to peal when played. He felt his faithful parishioners would be keenly disappointed without music at the traditional Christmas Eve services.

He sat down and hastily wrote the words for "Silent Night." Then he asked his friend, Franz Gruber, to write the melody. In just a few hours, these two dedicated and humble men wrote a carol that became world famous. Back in 1818 in the little church, they sang the carol accompanied by a guitar.

One of the most popular symbols of Christmas is the Christmas tree. This is said to date back to the eighth century. Martin Luther is credited with adding lighted candles years later in his native Germany.

The holly wreath, according to legend, goes back in time to the crucifixion. Christ's crown of thorns is said to have been made of holly leaves. The early Romans ornamented their temples and homes with green boughs, considered a symbol of peace.

Almost everybody has a special place where mementoes of past Christmases are kept. Sometimes it's an ornament from childhood, a card, a tiny toy or a piece of jewelry that had a significance of love.

While the practical side of one's nature may say this is the year to give something useful, the romantic side will say this is the year to give something different.

Anyone can give a gift certificate, clothing or a book. With just a little more thought, there are several really unique gifts from which to choose.

They are from the wonderful world of beauty, and are especially appropriate for Christmas gift giving. Called "Limited Editions," these gifts have been specially packaged and designed by cosmetic companies.

As the name implies, there is just a limited number, so it is a wise idea to shop early. You avoid the crowds and come away with stunning, unusual gifts that will be most welcome under any tree.

There is a wide price range, as well as a selection that is tailored for any budget. Revlon has had success with Limited Editions before. Due to popular demand, they have designed some of their most popular fragrances in items that are marvelous for Christmas gift giving.

What is more traditional than the characters from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite? This perennial favorite is the theme for the world-famous Charlie products. The Charlie Christmas look embodies the fragrance as well as matching dust powder and other items. They

are attractive looking gifts that will please, and are all moderately priced.

The romantic fragrance of Jontue combines old world enchantment in a formulation for today's woman. Fashions this season place the emphasis on the soft, romantic look, making this an ideal choice.

This Christmas season, Jontue is offering a special im-

ported crystal decanter in a limited edition of 1500 pieces. Each piece is individually etched with its number and the date.

For the romantic, sentimental woman, such a bottle would become a favorite among her souvenirs. In addition to the fragrance, Jontue sachet and body silk talc make unusual gifts.

For those who throw caution to the wind, there is a magnificent Limited Edition from Borghese. It is a beautiful compact designed by the famous jeweler, Bulgari. The original was cast in 18 carat gold. This one is in sterling silver with a precious stone set in the middle. For \$1,800, you also get a life time guarantee.



**MOTHER AND CHILD...SUCH
A HEAVENLY SIGHT TO BEHOLD!
LET THAT FIRST HOLY NIGHT
FILL OUR HEARTS WITH LOVE
AND ADORATION THIS SEASON.**

SPECTRUM FIBERS INC.

Kings Mountain, N.C.