

Baked Ornaments: New Way To Holiday Sparkle

Some of the loveliest and most interesting Christmas ornaments you'll find are the result of a family project in the William Hayes Farmington home.

Lynn Hayes and her four daughters bake many of their holiday decorations.

The shiny, shimmering baubles they take out of the oven are the kind that would add beauty and excitement to any holiday celebration.

SEVERAL FORMS of plastic are the basis of the ornaments the Hayes girls love to turn out.

There's a soft material described by one of the girls as "creaky crawler goo," and there's enough explanation for most kids.

This starts as a thick liquid and is painted in a design onto a bright-surfaced baking tin, then cooked until it reaches a solid, rubbery state. Then it can be painted.

There's also a "no bake" type known as polyester resin. It's poured into a mold and hardens there. Lynn likes to add pieces of stained glass, and has one framed piece made this year hanging in one of the hall, front windows of the temporary home she designed for the family.

THE "PLASTIC COOKIE" ornaments described and pictured here start with crystals called styrene plastic granules, available in most art and hobby stores.

Bags of granules in several colors were lined up for the baking project when Katie Hayes, 16, Jody, 12, Jill, 11, and Wendy, 4, joined their mother in a recent demonstration for our photographer.

"This is no big deal," Lynn explained, "We do it all the time, and the girls all do a little different."

Actually, it's a year-round hobby. Katie displayed a lovely collage of weeds and field flowers encased in clear plastic, and her mother had used several square creations as dividers over the counter that separates kitchen and dining areas.

The Christmas plastic ornaments, though, usually are made in snowflake or star form.

THE HAYES start with shiny-

surfaced tins, individual frost-size for tree ornaments, cake-pan size for larger ones. Or they may just put a piece of aluminum foil on a cookie sheet and bake away.

Forms are varied by placing collars of aluminum foil in the spots where no plastic is desired. Then the crystals are poured on in a thin layer.

Sometimes several colors of crystals are used in the first baking. Or a pastel tissue paper snowflake may be placed between layers of crystals, pieces of spaghetti may be added for lines.

The baking takes 10 to 15 minutes in an oven 350 to 400 degrees. The ornaments come out slightly spongy to the touch, but soon become glassy hard.

MOST OF THEM get more than one baking because additions are made to the basic design -- perhaps small circles of a different colored plastic, baked previously in "cupcake" tins.

Various forms of solid materials can be used to add interest to the finished ornaments.

"But you have to be sure the solid material is covered completely with plastic," Lynn cautioned, "We had a Girl Scout troop making them once and tried using colored kernels of popcorn."

"But some of the kernels weren't covered completely, so we had corn popping all over the place. Those were rather strange-looking ornaments."

The final step in creating the ornaments is heating a small awl red hot on the top of the stove and poking a hole near the top so a string for hanging can be inserted.

THIS ARTISTIC family's projects can be seen in every corner of their home, also occupied by an elderly Basset hound named Helga and a very young Persian kitten that bounds in the call of Buffy. Bill Hayes is a commercial loan officer with the Bank of the Commonwealth.

Lynn will hold a plastic cookie workshop tonight for members of the Farmington-Livonia Women of Wayne Alumni Club that she heads as president this year. The girls may well be in on the act then, too.



READY FOR BAKE — Jill Hayes, 11, assembles materials and utensils for the plastic cookie ornaments her family likes to cook at Christmas.



ON WITH THE PLASTIC — Four-year-old Wendy watches her mother, Mrs. William Hayes, spread on the colored crystals that will melt into a shiny decoration.



FINISHED PRODUCT — Jody Hayes, 12, removes completed pastel "cookie" from the hot oven. (Evert photos)

LWV Considers Plymouth Group

Nearly a half-century of service to local communities is the proud record of the League of Women Voters, a national, non-partisan organization devoted to promoting citizen participation in government.

A group of Plymouth and Northville women have scheduled a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, to discuss plans for forming a new League Chapter. The meeting will be held in the home of Mrs. William McAninch, 539 S. Sheldon, Plymouth.

All women in the Plymouth area, interested in learning more about the League and wishing to assist in plans for forming a local group are urged to attend.

THE PLANNING session will be conducted by several League or Women Voters members now

living in the Plymouth and Northville area — who are presently members of Leagues in nearby communities including Livonia, Dearborn and Birmingham.

Mrs. Robert Rottman, Farm Service Director for the LWV of Michigan, will address the meeting.

She will outline the requirements for starting a League and discuss the voters service activities which a local league can provide to a community. These include the preparation of voters' guides, conducting candidates meetings, and sponsoring forums on various local issues.

THERE ARE presently 39 local Leagues in Michigan, all of which schedule regular meetings for their members on topics like the electoral college, water resources, U.S. relations with China, Michigan courts, and a variety of local government problems and issues.

Membership in the LWV is open to all women citizens, 21 years of age or older.

Arrangements for transportation to the Dec. 9 meeting are being handled by Mrs. William F. McNamara, 453-4936, and Mrs. McAninch, 455-0469. Additional information on the League may also be obtained by calling either.

Northwest 'Y' Plans Yule Party Sunday

The annual Northwest YWCA Christmas party will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2540 Grand River.

Mrs. James Wood, Redford Township, is chairman of the event.

The party, a community affair, is held for families in the Northwest Detroit area and will feature a Southwestern theme. The YWCA building will glow with luminarias and the children will participate in the breaking of pinatas.

The program will include Christmas music by the Sororities, under the direction of Mabel Griffin, and dancing by the ballet classes, directed by Agnes Prentice. Punch and cookies will be served and Santa Claus will be present for the children.

The program will last approximately an hour and a half and the community is invited.

The committee includes Mrs. James Nugent and Mrs. James Morris from Redford Township; and Mrs. Oscar Hensley and Mrs. W.H. Westlake from Livonia.

Clothing Drive To Benefit State Patients

The Northville Volunteers of Thurston High School will hold a clothing drive at the school Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The clothes will be given to patients at Northville State Hospital. Rems in special demand are large dresses, sweaters, socks, underwear, make-up and games.

The volunteers added that they cannot use purses, hats or jewelry.

Clothing should be taken to the lobby in front of the school cafeteria.

The Observer Women

Ed Sorority Initiates 14

Area X of Michigan Alpha Delta Kappa initiated 14 new members Saturday, Nov. 23, following a luncheon held at the Hillside Inn, Plymouth. Six chapters, representing Livonia, Plymouth, Manchester, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, participated.

Mrs. Byron Flechtmier of Tau Chapter, Livonia, presided at the luncheon table.

Pledges presented for initiation by Beta Eta Chapter of Livonia were: Sandra L. Andringa, Dorothy Norton, Helen McKenna, Marie Moore and Nicolaia Elliot. Sharon Belobradick, Helen Kelly and Betty Walker were initiated into Beta Xi Chapter of Plymouth.

State officers attending included Mrs. Ray Piller, president; Mrs. Maurice Sheppard, vice president; and Mrs. Stanley Daymond, state chaplain.

The initiation team was headed by Mrs. Clarence E. Feldkamp, chairman of Area X, and Mrs. Vernon Dresselhouse, Mrs. Gladys Scott, Tau Chapter, Livonia, served as sergeant-at-arms.

m. m. memos

The youngest writer in our family undertook to write a book during her recent long weekend.

So her mother can't miss this opportunity to give it a review.

Miss Seven's epic had its moments of drama. For instance:

"If you see her yell.
"OOOOY!!!!!!"
"Not that loud."
"Well, you sed to yell. (Good grief)."
There was also pathos.
"I can't fine my fishnets."
"You nokolhede you!" (Reviewer's note, that's knuckthead, I think.)
And a neat combination of tragedy and comedy.
"Goodby." (Now, how's that for an opening line?)
"I am staing here. Remeber, today is Thanksgiving."
"I forgot. I don't have the turkey."
"Oh-oh. Spaghetti-o's."
Maybe I'd better just turn this corner over to her. It would be a great outlet for a lot of spare energy.

—Margaret Miller

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Open House Is A First

In many quarters, an open house is a commonplace occurrence, especially during the holiday season.

But in the H Building of the Northville State Mental Hospital, it's a first that marks real progress and triumph.

The H Building, which houses young adults in the hospital, will hold its open house for parents of the patients and some of the hospital's volunteer workers from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.

DR. K.C. NAIR, head of the unit, said it was the very first time any part of the hospital has opened all its doors and shown all its facilities to those with no official connection.

"We want the parents to see what's behind the closed doors and to know that there's no mystery in our therapy program," he said. "Many parents really don't know what goes on here."

Dr. Nair said he also hoped the evening would be a beginning in better relations between parents and patients, and also between parents and hospital staff members.

"OUR STAFF all will be here for the open house," he said, "and it is our hope that some consultations can be planned to carry on what the evening begins."

Patients in the H Building, described as seriously disturbed, will conduct tours of the building and show their rooms.

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