

Make Christmas Beautiful And Save Energy Too

DEARBORN
A return to the Christmas decorations of the 19th century may well be the solution to the energy-imposed restrictions of 1973.

That's the opinion of Robert G. Wheeler, Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum vice president who is directing preparations for a traditional Christmas observance at the two American history museums.

Pointing out that Christmas tree lighting, with the exception of candles, was virtually unknown until the

early 20th century, Wheeler said that much of the holiday finery displayed at the turn of the century depended on the ingenuity of homemakers.

"Many of the decorating ideas were handed down from one generation to the next," he explained, "and frequently our American traditions originated in England, middle Europe, and the low countries and Scandinavia."

The Christmas tree that stands on the second floor of Lovett Hall this season was decorated completely with hand-crafted items, and without lights.

Members of the craft departments in Greenfield Village used ribbon candy as a tree decoration, along with styrofoam balls decorated with pictures cut from Christmas cards or Christmas paper, and cut-outs mounted on wood and felt.

On the second floor at Lovett Hall you can find an exceptionally beautiful tree

and two matching wreaths trimmed entirely with dried flowers.

The pastel tones make an elegant decoration and a distinctive fragrance wafts from the spicy scents of the dried flowers.

Visitors to the village and museum Christmas presentations opening Saturday, Dec. 8, will be able to take home a score or more interior and exterior decorating ideas, none of which involve the use of electricity.

Wheeler even recommends bringing a camera to record on film some of the more intriguing possibilities.

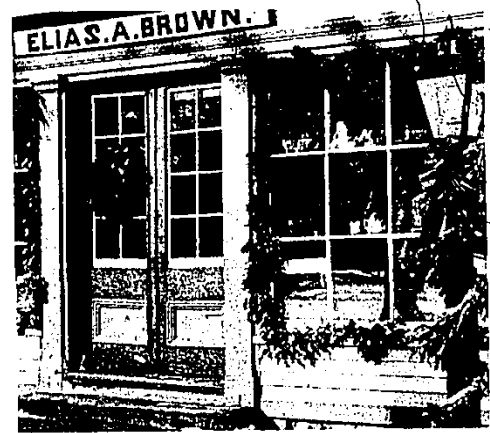
Among these he includes the very early Dutch St. Nicholas-Eve traditional decorations; the yule log and kissing bell from England; Germany's tradition of the great Christmas tree dating back to at least 1840 in this country; and the use of real fruit for centerpieces, door decorations and stocking stuffers.

"Another advantage to us-

ing Christmas decorations of an earlier century," Wheeler added, "is the opportunity to involve the entire family in preparing for the holidays. Even the smallest children can help string cranberries, set candles into potato holders, fashion wreaths of greens and pull taffy for guests."

These and many other examples of old-fashioned Christmas traditions are displayed for village and museum visitors from Dec. 8-31.

On sale in the village and museum are hand-crafted decorative items and authentic reproductions.



THE GAILY DECORATED general store at Greenfield Village holds a wealth of goods which tempted Christmas shoppers years ago -- bright ribbons and cloth, striped bags of candy and tobacco. When the lamp is lit, it will be with a candle.

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Workshop Is Dec. 4

Perceptual motor development is the topic for a Tuesday, Dec. 4, workshop scheduled by the Livonia-Redford chapter of Michigan Association for Children with Learning Difficulties.

Dr. George Barahal will head the workshop from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of Bentley

High School, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia.

Dr. Barahal has conducted research in the field of hyperkinesia, brain dysfunction and learning disabilities and will speak on the role of perceptual motor training in academic achievement.

James Glasgow, who works with a group of children in a program housed in Livonia, also will participate in the workshop.

Holiday Open House Planned

The Western Wayne County Alumnae chapter of Alpha Xi Delta sorority will hold its annual holiday open house

Sunday, Dec. 2, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Gruschow, 31801 Balmoral Court, Livonia.

All alumnae and their husbands are invited to join the festivities between the hours of 4 and 7 p.m. Call Mrs. Gruschow for reservations and directions.

Westland Has AARP Group

A recently formed chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) now is meeting in the Westland city recreation building, 32715 Dorsey.

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. The next gathering will be Dec. 12 and all senior citizens are invited.

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