

It's a tradition for her

Prize winning decorator-arranger admits talking to a Christmas tree

Talented Farmington Hills decorator-flower arranger, Jan (Mrs. Walter) Dolan, admits to talking to a tree.

It is a Norfolk Pine kept inside in winter and on the patio in summer. For easy transportation from inside to outside, it is housed in a large pot on wheels.

But, at holiday time, the pine has special responsibilities. It becomes a living Christmas tree for the family which includes four grown sons.

"I tell it every year 'if you do well, you'll get decorated,'" says Mrs. Dolan, who has won many state fair prizes for arrangements.

She smiles at a comment that it is "interesting to find a Farmington Hills councilman who is a flower arranger," adding with a grin "or maybe it's the other way around."

She started the pine 12 years ago from a small seedling and it is now a tradition to have a living Christmas tree in the Dolan home.

It is also a tradition for friends to drop by to see what new decorations Mrs. Dolan has dreamed up for the season.

"My friends expect something different every year," she says as she walks from room to room talking about this year's projects.

"If I had my way, I'd have a green house in the middle with the house around it. I love plants."

She stops by the dining room table to comment on a Williamsburg-style centerpiece of real fruit. It is a cone-shaped arrangement of limes, shiny

red apples, sprigs of holly and greens topped by a pineapple.

"I love the smell of this," she says. She pulls an apple off showing a wooden cylinder with spikes sticking out. The fruit is placed on the spikes (one on top to anchor the pineapple) and the greens tucked in and around. This is a family favorite because it's edible.

"The fruit never dries out. We eat

"The fruit never dries out. We eat and replenish. One of boys is always grabbing an apple from it."

--Mrs. Jan Dolan

and replenish. One of the boys is always grabbing an apple from it."

She stops by a wreath on the wall which she made herself. It is wrapped in red velvet.

"This is my partridge-in-a-pear branch."

On a bare, artfully-shaped branch which reaches beyond the wreath sits a small perky partridge.

She leads the way to the family room where "my ethnic wreath" is hung over the mantle.

It is broom corn wrapped with Scotch plaid ribbon.

"This is new this year. I have a friend who grows broom corn and he gave me some."

THERE IS more corn in an arrangement beside the fireplace. Nestled in with the corn is what looks like a bunch of dark grapes.

Actually the grapes are buckeyes with tiny holes bored in them and then strung in a cluster.

Mrs. Dolan is a member of local garden and flower-arranging groups and the Federated Garden Clubs. She says that although her work at Akron University prepared her for a career as a hospital dietitian, she took many electives in the arts.



A good enough to eat Williamsburg style arrangement is a centerpiece for the Walter Dolan Christmas table.

Tartan and broom corn are the main ingredients in Jan Dolan's "ethnic" Christmas wreath.

Staff photos by Harry Mauthe



Mrs. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills decorates her living Norfolk pine every year for the family tree.

Ma Bell anticipates record calls

Michigan Bell is predicting that state residents will make more than one million long-distance calls on Christmas Day.

Because Christmas is traditionally one of the busiest calling holidays of the year, the telephone company is advising customers to schedule their calls during the less busy hours.

On Christmas Day itself, early morning or afternoon calls have a better chance of going right through. "This means you will be better off

phoning before 8 a.m. or between 1 and 5 p.m. in the time zone of the family or friends you are calling," local Michigan Bell manager Lon Kain said.

Callers can avoid the Christmas Day rush by phoning earlier in the week or before 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Kain said. Also, calls to long-distance information should be made before the holiday rush.

"And for the lowest possible rates, dial your own calls," Kain said. "Di-

rect-dial rates—no matter what the hour—are lower than operator-assisted rates."

The telephone company anticipates the majority of Michigan long-distance calls, about \$15,000, will be made to other points in the state. Bell predicts about \$12,000 calls will be made from Michigan to other states.

Nationwide, the Bell System is expecting holiday callers to make a record total of about 137 million interstate calls this year.

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