



Mrs. Palmer does a bit of scenery moving in the general store for which she collected component parts for nearly a year.



Tracey Jean can't decide which is her favorite among the doll house rooms created by her mother.



It's Christmas in this miniature room, charmingly furnished by Pamela Palmer of Livonia.

Holiday cheer in miniature

By MARGARET MILLER

They'll have themselves a merry little Christmas in at least one room of Pamela Palmer's house.

That room's occupants are Mr. and Mrs. Santa, who stand about six inches tall.

Santa's resting from his labors in a doll-sized armchair, and his still-busy helpmate is trimming a tree, a scant eight inches in height, with the tiniest bits of popcorn and cranberry you can imagine.

Thimble-sized toys, a train and a couple of soldiers, and some little wrapped boxes surround the tree, and miniature bells hang on the scale-sized door. There's a box of minuscule ornaments open on the small braided rug.

Over the graceful fireplace hangs a holly wreath, complete in every detail, and a couple of china pug dogs, hardly bigger than your fingernail, sit atop the mantelpiece.

Through the brightly-curtained windows you can see outside to a snowy world that adds to the Christmas picture.

THIS CHRISTMAS room, of course, was created by Mrs. Palmer for looking into instead of living in. But to this Livonia homemaker and her family—husband William, daughter Tracey Jean and son Michael—it's as much a part of home as postcard-sized rooms in their subdivision ranch house.

So far that matter, are the country store room that Mrs. Palmer has filled with countless goodies, and the set of doll house rooms she has furnished with miniatures and populated with charming little china folks.

For Mrs. Palmer, thinking little has become the pathway to her favorite hobby.

"I guess I started enjoying miniatures when I went to a convention with my mother," she recalled. Her mother, former Livonian Lucille Funk,

had a friend who was a miniatures enthusiast, and the fever was catching.

Mrs. Palmer started collecting furnishings and dolls and building rooms. Before long her one bedroom dollhouse was bursting at the seams, so a few more rooms were added.

Now there's a kitchen and laundryroom too as well as a den, all furnished in scale model tables and chairs and featuring a population that includes Grandma and Grandpa as well as the typical nuclear family members.

Small Tracey finds the doll rooms in her parents' bedroom a constant mecca.

"She very good, through," said her mother. "She never takes things out when I'm not there. Actually, she's as interested in the rooms as I am."

WITH THE EXPANDED doll house in order, a country store was the next big project in Pamela Palmer's small world.

"I collected things for about a year," she said, "and once I got the box to put it in the assembly went pretty fast."

For that crowded room, she went into the flooring business, using tongue depressors to make her planks.

There was a near tragedy involving that room, but everything turned out all right.

Mrs. Palmer had the room assembled and on brackets in her kitchen. A small bump during a family meal caused the brackets to give way.

"I sat there and watched it go," she recalls, "and it scattered all over the floor."

"After I cried, I looked over the damage and found that all that was broken was the front glass and one little gumball machine. I got it put

together easily, and now I don't take any chances—I keep it on the counter."

THE CHRISTMAS ROOM is assembled in a special kind of box with walls angled outward for a three-dimensional effect. The innovation Mrs. Palmer tried in that one was a false back wall with a light and Christmas cards to the viewer think he's looking out the window.

She hurried to finish that one up this fall so it could be displayed for a time in Muriel's Doll House of Plymouth, the source of many of her miniature furnishings.

But the room came home in plenty of time for family Christmas.

Mrs. Palmer, who calls herself a "craft person" and finances many of her miniature purchases by selling handmade lace macramé and quilted Christmas wreaths, makes some of the items in her little rooms.

She's braided the rugs, crocheted

bedspreads and wound string on balls and material on tiny cardboards for the store. She also has dressed some of the dolls. But most of the items in the rooms, including the decorated Christmas tree, were purchased ready-made to scale.

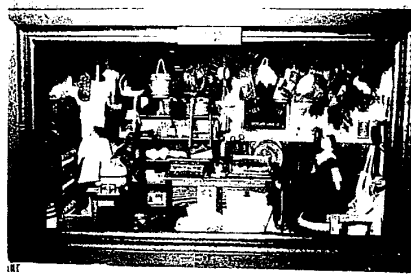
She's now assembling a little ice-cream parlor. She has the little wire chairs and tables and some of the people, and she's trying to figure out how to make the counters.

THIS DESIGNER of little rooms has yet to sell one of the creations.

"It takes a lot of time to collect the things, and by the time I finish I've put so much of myself into them I can't think of parting with them," she said.

"The funny thing is that as a child I never played with dolls; I was always with my three brothers playing cowboys and Indians."

"But I've always loved interior decorating, and I guess that's what I find so much fun in the miniatures."



The village store is crowded with merchandise and memories, just like its real life models of yesteryear.

Friends remembered with jeweled display

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

A bejeweled Christmas display in BeLynn's Coiffures and Fashions is the owner's way of remembering friends she's made who were customers of hers as far back as 16 years ago.

"My friendship tree and wreaths come out every year at this time, and it just keeps growing," said Ms. Lynn, who collected items of jewelry from her clients, a piece at a time, to form a Christmas tree. When the tree was filled, she started a wreath, and now the second wreath is almost completed.

Base for the tree and wreaths are styrofoam, covered with pink velvet, then mounted on pink velvet and fringed with ornate gold wooden frames.

From inexpensive to moderately

priced bracelets, earrings (many one of a kind), pins, or rings, as the pieces were given, they were placed on the tree. Necklaces were used the same as a string of popcorn might be used to drape the tree.

"I NEVER rearranged anything. Just added on as my clients brought the pieces in after I told them I wanted them to be represented," Ms. Lynn said. The pieces were placed on the tree, either with their own fastening, or with T pins.

Many donors to the Christmas decoration brought in something that was of special significance. A woman whose favorite gift to give is a flag, contributed a small jeweled pin in the shape of the U.S. flag. One woman gave a miniature mouse from her own

collection. Another woman sent a fish because Ms. Lynn was born under the sign of Pisces.

The Christmas display was brought to the attention of this newspaper by one of Ms. Lynn's clients who thought the idea of a friendship Christmas display might be something others would want to devise for themselves.

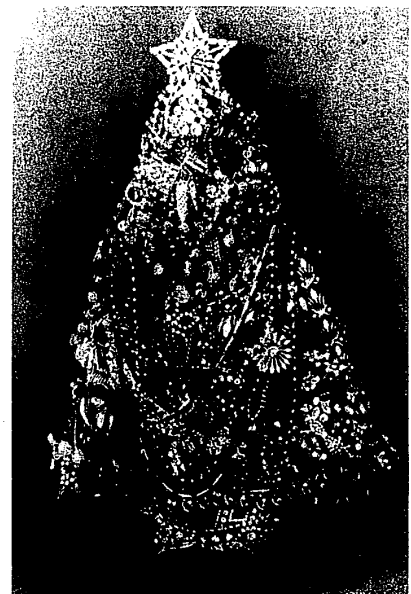
Ms. Lynn's response was: "Yes. So many people have shared in this and we've all enjoyed watching it grow. It helps us to remember those who have died, or moved away. And many of my customers ask who gave me this or that piece."

She still has a few holes to fill on the last wreath, but Ms. Lynn is already thinking about starting other designs for other holidays.



Ms. LYNN

"When I start my heart for Valentine's Day, I'm going to tell my customers I want nothing but rubies. Or maybe I should ask for just emeralds for a Shamrock."



Every piece of jewelry which makes up the Christmas tree decoration on the pink velvet backing, represents a friend.

Calvary makes plans for advent season

Calvary Lutheran Church in Southfield is preparing for Christmas. Advent candles are lit on each of the four Sundays preceding Christmas.

The Lutheran Church Women recently had a luncheon and bazaar where handmade items were sold to members and guest.

Another festive occasion was a tree-trimming party held at the church. Members worked together to prepare the church for Christmas. A tree was decorated with symbols of Christ and afterwards, workers gathered at the home of Jerald and Betty Stone of Lathrup Village.

Members of the church are donating their time on the weekends preceding Christmas to giftwrap packages at the booth in Pontiac Mall. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Calvary

Lutheran Church Women to be used for worthwhile projects.

Sunday school classes will conduct the worship service at 11 a.m. on Dec. 18. The play "Walk Through Christmas" will be presented by the students.

Two Christmas Eve services will

take place at Calvary. The candlelight services will be at 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. The message by Rev. Samuel Hays will be "Light of My Life." The service is open to members, friends, and residents of Southfield and surrounding communities.

The Christmas Day worship service

will be at 11 a.m. The message will be "Still Waiting." Special music will be provided by Evonne Hays of Southfield.

A nursery will be provided and coffee hours follow each Sunday worship service. The church is located at 28001 Evergreen Road in Southfield.

Dominican seeking out alumnae

Dominican High School is in the process of updating the alumnae files.

There have been more than 7,000 graduates over the past 37 years and the school's goal is to gather 5,000 cor-

rect names and addresses by January.

If you are an alumna, or know of others who are, please send this information to Sister Marceline Fouché, Dominican High School, 9740

McKinney, Detroit 48224, or call the school at 862-8500.

The Alumnae Association is being reorganized and plans are underway for a Fall '78 alumnae reunion.

Staff photos by
Art Emanuel,
Gary Gaskey, Harry Mauthe