

Holiday Wreaths Ring Up Profits

If you should see a sharp young woman gathering pine cones somewhere in Observerland, don't be too sure it's decorating her own home she has in mind.

She may be a member of the Western Suburban Junior Women's club preparing for NEXT Christmas.

For pine cones are a major ingredient of a fund-raising project that has grown each year for the Junior Club, a social and philanthropic group with members all over the Observer area.

This year members raised \$500 by teaching 175 women to make beautiful 16-inch pine cone wreaths for holiday decorations.

IT ALL STARTED in November of 1968 when Alma

Free Phone Call Contest Is Planned

A deadline of Dec. 13 has been set for families wishing to win a free telephone call from a serviceman or woman overseas, by Local 4001 of the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

The local, in cooperation with the USO of metropolitan Detroit, is sponsoring 20 calls in this area as part of the union's 15th Hi-Mom program.

Entries from mothers, fathers, sister, brothers or wives who have relatives in the military service on foreign soil must be received by Dec. 13. The contestants must submit on a postcard their name, address, telephone number, relationship to and location of the relative overseas.

Cards should be sent to: Hi-Mom Program, c/o USO, 513 Clifford, Detroit, 48226.

Winning families will be announced Dec. 14.

They will be chosen that day in a drawing by disc jockey Dick Puritan at the USO. Winners do not have to be present at the drawing.



DOLORES A. POTTS, a school-community agent for the Detroit Board of Education, has been appointed executive director of the Detroit Area Council of Camp Fire Girls. A resident of Detroit, she succeeds Carey Charles. Her main concern will be with the direction Camp Fire Girls will take in the areas of program and service.



A MUSICAL JAMBOREE at Nankin Mills Elementary School in Westland will be sponsored by Senior Girl Scout Troop 1502 at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10. Scouts will put on several musical numbers and lead the singing for those attending. The school is located at 8100 Hub-



WESTERN SUBURBAN JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB members Carolyn Zecman, left, and Alma Kelly hold the pine cone wreath that

started a successful fund-raising venture. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

conservation committee earned \$10.

EVERYONE AGREED Mrs. Kelly had a good thing going, so the next fall the group planned three workshops. This time the club supplied materials and charged \$4.50, and the profit was \$125. It paid part of the juniors' annual Schoolcraft College scholarship.

In 1970, the project had to move to a bigger basement. The juniors hauled borrowed tables and chairs and purchased 100 wreath bases wholesale, along with gallons of paste and miles of wire.

The price went up to \$5.50, and the club earned \$500 to cover a full scholarship to Schoolcraft.

This year Mrs. Kelly turned the project over to Carolyn

Zecman, who supervised the construction of 175 wreaths at \$6 each. The proceeds went over the cost of a scholarship, so part will also go to the Loch Ru Girlstown in Belleville, a regular philanthropy of Federated Women's Clubs, and the juniors will decide later what other gift to make.

"THE PLYMOUTH CREDIT UNION very graciously turned its building over to us so we could bring in more women," Mrs. Zecman said.

"The women were just delighted to learn that they would be able to talk out with a beautiful wreath, whatever their talent."

An adequate supply of pine cones has been a big concern since the project started expanding.

Everyone helps collect them. Now it's practically a must for junior members to carry a few extra sacks in the car — just in case they should spot a likely tree.

"I started figuring that we'd need 5,200 jack pine cones for 175 wreaths," she said, "and I was a bit worried this summer as to whether we'd make it. But everyone came through, and we had more than 7,000 by the time we finished."

MOST OF THE WORK on the wreaths is done during the two-hour workshop, but they do have to be sprayed with varnish after they have dried thoroughly.

"We also leave the final touches to each individual," Mrs. Zecman said. "They can be finished with artificial fruit or flowers, ribbon or Christmas tinsel."

Mrs. Kelly said she keeps her wreath year-round as a table decoration and changes it a bit to suit the season.

Sixty women already have indicated they want to make wreaths next Christmas. So the juniors are busy storing up a good supply of pine cones.



m. m. memos

It was with certain mixed feelings that I watched the first high school senior in our family go to have her yearbook portrait taken.

She's one of several ladies in the clan whose true beauty seems to elude the camera.

My mother, for instance, never looked right in any snapshot or posed picture. The one I keep now is her passport picture. It looks like a passport picture, too, but it's still the best I have.

And any long-suffering photographer who has worked for this newspaper will tell you that the worst assignment they can get is taking a picture of me. Their cameras are still intact, but I've thrown away — as quickly as possible — some pretty bad samples of their work.

None so bad, though as the one I have to carry around with me on my driver's license. That should at least put the fear of death into any officer who ever tried to stop me.

So I was unprepared for High School Senior's announcement one recent afternoon.

"My driver's license came in the mail and my proofs came too," she announced, "and I think I like the license picture best."

And that's how it can go with pictures in our family.

—Margaret Miller

Toys Should Fit Child's Abilities And Interests

The trouble with children's toys is that they are purchased by adults.

This is the opinion of Esther Shapiro, consumer affairs specialist of the Michigan Credit Union League, who says that the electronic toys that attract adults are often too complex for the child.

WORKING IN consultation with child guidance experts, Mrs. Shapiro suggests some general rules for toys. A toy should be safe, it should be durable (don't get plastic blocks for a child who will use them to hammer at walls) and the toy must be suitable to a child's interest, abilities and age.

In choosing toys for various ages, the characteristics of each age group should be considered.

For example, infants' eyes begin to follow movement, and they are attracted by bright colors. Suggested playthings include mobiles, brightly-colored posters and pictures hung near the crib.

At three to nine months, the child reaches, grabs, holds, objects and starts to sit up, so good toys for this age-group are rattles, large blocks and bath toys. It's important to remember that all the toys will be tasted, chewed and pulled apart, so they should be checked for safe paint, sharp edges and fragile parts.

Push and pull toys are best for the nine to 12 month set.

AT 12 TO 18 MONTHS, the child becomes interested in sounds and words and uses his eyes and hands more. Thus, he likes toys that make a noise, particularly pots and pans that can be beaten with spoons and musical toys. Large blocks of heavy paper are also a good choice, as are toy telephones, balls and soft dolls.

Tricycles and small wagons come into their own with the child of 18 months to three years. With the development of hand and eye coordination, there is an interest in more complicated blocks, simple building materials that fit

together, pounding blocks and simple puzzles. Play dough, finger paints and large crayons. These should be labelled "safe for children," since tasting and swallowing are still favorite activities.

Children of this age, as well as the three-to-five-year-olds also like to imitate their elders, so dolls, animals, trucks and toy dishes make good playthings.

The older group also likes dress-up materials, toys for playing store (empty cans), top-cash registers and telephones, wagons, doll buggies, dolls, trucks, cars and zoo animals.

For quiet play, art materials, scissors, paste, crayons, paint clay, story books, puzzles, records and a simple record player are needed.

According to Mrs. Shapiro, the price of the toy is no indication of value. Often the cheapest toys last longer and are the child's favorite.

Counselor Is Speaker

Don Haller, chief marital counselor for Washtenaw County Circuit Court, will be the next speaker in the Birmingham Temple Women's Group town hall series.

He will discuss "Inter-Family Relationships" at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, in the Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile, Farmington.

The series of four lectures is built around the theme "A Woman for All Seasons."

Pershing Grads Set Reunion

The 1942 graduating class of Pershing High School in Detroit is planning a 30-year reunion to be held in the Warren Chateau during October of 1972.

Class members who would be interested in attending are asked to call Mrs. Darrell Colley, 2623 Dundack Lane, Farmington.

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