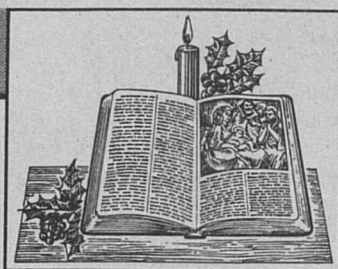


ELPS Second Grade Continued

Pole cold? For Christmas I want Casey Cartwheel, GigaPet, a computer and a bracelet. Everyone has been good. Jaclyn, Andrea, Katlyn, Yolanda and Jenny are my best friends.

Your friend, Samantha Castro



In This Holy Season

May all your prayers be answered during this season of miracles.

The
Atilano
Cardenas, Jr.
Family

Dear Santa,
how are you doing Santa and the reindeer? Please bring me a big truck, a car, Hot Wheels and a remote control car. Please Santa please. I love you, Santa and the reindeer.

Your friend, Joshua Teague

Dear Santa Claus,
I've been a good little boy. Santa, how is Dasher Dancer and Prancer? How is the elf? I want a Nintendo 64, a bicycle and a BB gun and Jordann's.

Your friend, Brandon Scott

Dear Mr. C.,
How is Mrs. C. and the elves? I want a Giga Pet, a Nano Baby, a ring and bracelet, and Jordans. I've been good What are the elves names.

Your friend, Jenny Fields

Dear Mr. C.,
How is Mrs. Santa Claus? How is Rudolph? I want a remote control car. Can you please bring me a skate board and a Giga Pat? I've been good Santa Claus. Thank you.

Your friend, Justin Torres

Dear Santa,
I would like a play station, a Nintendo 64, a low Rider bike and a mortal kombat game and some red roses for my mom.

Your friend, Michael Hernandez

Dear Mr. C.,
How are you and the reindeer and

Mrs. Claus? Are you making presents? Will you please buy me a Giga pet, Crazy Curls, jewelry, and a Selena Video. How is the weather? Is it cold? Will you please give me these and the ones I wrote at home please, because I have been a very good girl? I love you and everyone else. I have been a good girl this year.

Your friend, Shelly Myres

Dear Mr. C.,
How are you and Rudolph doing? Is his nose getting shiny? Could you please buy me a Giga pet, jewelry, Selena video and Scream 2 video. How is the weather in the North Pole? Are you making good Christmas toys? I have been a very good girl. Santa, I love you and all of the reindeer and even Mrs. Claus even your elves. I want to see you on Christmas because I will be happy. Love to all of you and a Merry Christmas to you. Thank you.

Your friend, Katlyn Thomas

Dear Mr. C.,
How are the reindeer? How is Mrs. Santa Claus? How are the elves doing? How is the weather in the North Pole? How is Rudolph? How are the other countries? Would you please buy me the Triplet Babies, roller blades, Casey Cartwheel, and Crazy Curls for Christmas. I have been a good girl this year. Merry Christmas.

Your friend, Yolanda Cisneros

Dear Kris Kringle,
How are you doing? I have been a good boy this year. Are your reindeer doing well? Is Rudolph's nose getting shiny? Is Mrs. Kringle doing all right? Are your reindeer ready to fly this year? I hope you come to my house. I would like a pair of Tennis shoes, a skate board, a boom box, and last of all a go-cart.

Your friend, Drew Quinney

Dear Santa,
How is your family? How are the elves and the reindeer. For Christmas I would like a Barbie Doll, a bicycle, play make-up and new shoes. I have been happy. I love you, Santa, I love you.

Your Friend, Elizabeth Guthrie

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? How is Mrs. Santa? I've been a good boy. How is the North Pole? Would you please bring me a go-cart, a boombox, a watch and clothes for Christmas. I have been good at home.

Your friend, Jessie Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Santa Claus doing? How is the North Pole? How is the weather? May I please have a Super Nintendo, Play Station, Space Jam video, and Hot Wheels for Christmas. How are the reindeer and Rudolph. How are the elves doing? I was a good boy. I love you very much. Are you making toys to bring the boys and girls? Are the elves doing a good job on the toys? I am have cookies and milk out for you. You are a good friend.

Your friend, Gary Scott

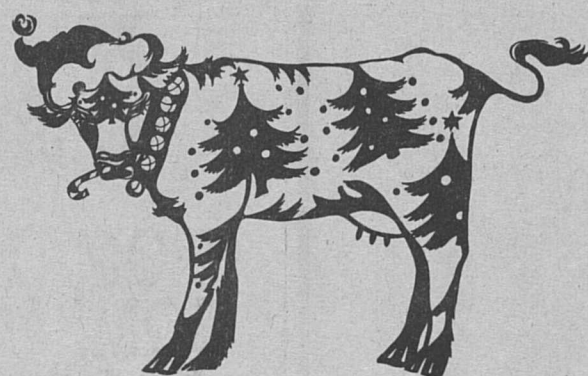
Quick, easy 'Hulk Salad' adds color to your table

"THE HULK" SALAD

- 1 large can crushed pineapple
- 1/2 cup miniature marshmallows
- 1 pkg. instant pistachio pudding
- 1/4 cup chopped maraschino cherries
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 8 oz. whipped topping (Cool Whip)

Mix pineapple and pudding well. Add pecans, marshmallows and cherries, mixing well. Fold in whipped topping and chill overnight.

(Note: if you're in a hurry, you can put it in the freezer for an hour or so and it will stand up very well.)



Good Wishes Through
December 25th...And well beyond!
Happy Holidays!

George Hagan, Arthur Moeller
at
Columbus Livestock Auction
Sales Start 10:30 A.M. Thursdays

Last Sale of 1997: Dec. 18th

First Sale of 1998: Jan. 8th

Decorate the Tree With Victorian Spirit

The Christmas tree is usually the focal point of holiday spirit in the home, and every tree reflects the traditions of the family that decorated it.

In the Victorian era, people reveled in rich colors and textures. So, they adorned their Christmas trees with nosegays, silk tassels, paper and fabric fans, ornate glass ornaments, ropes of pearls and gold beads, and cornucopias. During the winter evenings before Christmas, Victorians would create these beautiful ornaments and place them on their trees.

To bring a 19th-century holiday into their home this year, people can create their own authentic Victorian decorations with these instructions from "365 Ways to Prepare for Christmas" (HarperCollins), by David E. Monn.

NOSTALGIC NOSEGAYS

- Small gold or white doily
- Fabric rose
- 12 inches of ribbon that matches the rose, 1/4-inch thick
- Tape

Stick the stem of a fabric rose into the center of a small gold or white doily. Pinch it so it gathers around the flower, then turn it over and secure tightly with tape. Tie a 12-inch length of 1/4-inch matching ribbon once around the tape, and leave the ends as streamers. Use the stem to attach to the tree.

For a more romantic look, use a red heart-shaped doily. You also could use a larger doily and wire together bunches of dried flowers, like tea roses, baby's breath, heather and statice. For a seasonal touch, add some cinnamon sticks.

VICTORIAN DOILY FANS

- Round doily
- Small fabric or dried flowers
- Glue
- Wire

Cut a round doily in half. Accordion pleat the half doily into a fan, and attach a cluster of small fabric or dried flowers to the front of it with glue. Attach to the tree with wire.

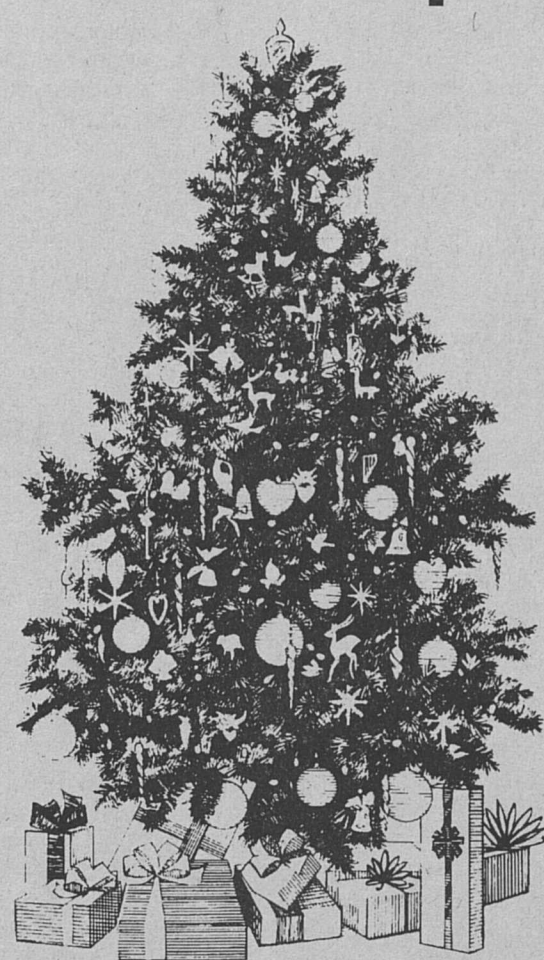
CORNUCOPIAS

- White or gold doily
- Ribbon
- Dried flowers
- Glue or staples
- Ribbon roses, optional

Cut a quarter wedge out of a white or gold doily, and wrap the rest around until you have a cone shape; glue or staple together. If you wish, add a small bow and some ribbon roses to the front; attach a ribbon loop for hanging. Fill with dried flowers.

For a more natural look, use handmade paper. Cut out a circle pattern 12 inches in diameter, then cut into four wedges; roll each into a cone. If you wish, stencil on some leaves or a design before forming the cone.

Take some children's party hats in bright colors, tie the elastic into a knot to shorten it, and fill with the dried flowers or, as a treat for the children, popcorn or small (not too heavy) Christmas candies. Hang on the tree by



the elastic band; if the candy is too heavy, use a glue gun to attach a ribbon loop.

VICTORIAN JEWEL ORNAMENT

- 3-inch Styrofoam ball
- Gold paint
- 4 inches gold wire
- White glue
- Gold beading pins
- 36 inches gold braid, 1/4-inch wide
- Assorted gold and crystal beads and pearls
- Gold beading
- Beaded or gold tassel

Paint the Styrofoam ball gold, and let dry overnight.

Form a double loop of gold wire, and insert the ends into the top of the ball; glue to secure. With a glue gun and the gold pins, attach the gold braid around the ball twice to create four sections. Create a design with the loose beads, making each of the sections the same or completely different. Work very slowly to allow each piece to dry.

Attach the gold beading in loops around the bottom of the ornament. Finish off with a tassel at the very bottom of the ball.

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Choose age-appropriate toys

By Marty Graves, Colorado County Extension Agent-FCS

As the holidays approach, parents are encouraged to purchase age-appropriate toys for children.

Parents should consider whether the toy is potentially dangerous to their child, or any child for that matter. They should ask, "Would my child use this toy safely?" Would another child pick this up and potentially harm themselves and/or my child with it?"

Parents also need to consider at which stage their children are developmentally.

Parents should ask whether their children are emotionally and cognitively able to play with a particular toy.

It's so typical for a parent to say,

"My child is above their age, my child is smarter than his age."

That's great - but the truth is, most kids are at their expected age level. The best advice to consumers is to follow the age range on the toy's box.

Most kids are right in their range and the ranges on the toys are generously stated.

The manufacturer certainly wants to sell every toy they can, and they're going to give the earliest date they can possibly give and the latest date.

When age ranges are ignored, consequences can be serious. The thing we hear about most are the small parts of toys that go into a child's mouth who is at the stage where they taste everything and the child swallows the toy and chokes.

Experiencing continual defeat at the hands of a toy that is too complicated for a child's age can be harmful for children who are beginning to develop self concept.

Learning defeat is important, but if children experience repeated defeat, it is typical for them to say, "I don't like it anyway." Or they may internalize it,

"What's the matter with me that I can't do it? I'm not as good as someone else."

Parents also need to make sure toys are in line with what they teach their children about morals.

There's been a movement in our country not to ever give boys or girls guns. But if a child wants to play with a gun, they'll pull out their index finger and pretend to shoot.

We have to go back and take a look at the meaning behind that toy. If a toy is not teaching something that the parents believe in, then they need to think twice before giving that toy.

The same is true concerning gender roles. Research has shown that it is not harmful to give boys dolls and girls toy trucks and planes, but what is appropriate for a child must be determined by his or her parents.

Theoretically, toys have no gender but our gender roles shape the way we play with toys.

So we, as parents, know what we think is appropriate, right, good. We put values on toys and then we select them.

OLD FASHIONED WALNUT BREAD

- 3 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 4 tsps. baking powder
- 2 tsps. salt
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup shortening, melted
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups chopped walnuts

Resift flour with sugar, baking powder and salt. Add egg, shortening, milk and vanilla to dry mixture. Stir just until all of flour is moistened. Stir in walnuts. Turn into greased 9x5x3-in. loaf pan, or divide batter between 2 greased #2-1/2 cans or 3 mini-loaf pans. Bake at 350° F. for about 1 hr. 20 min. for rectangular loaf; 1 hr. 10 min. for round loaves; about 1 hr. for mini-loaves.

Publisher's Note: This was my Dad's favorite. He liked it warm with a little butter spread on a slice.

Streusel variation: prepare batter as above. Turn half into loaf pan. Blend 1/3 cup brown sugar, packed; 1-1/2 Tbsps. flour; 1 tsp. cinnamon and 2 Tbsps. butter. Sprinkle over batter; top with remaining batter. Bake as above.

Recipe from Diamond Walnuts

GLAD TIDINGS



Don we now our gay apparel...and our holiday thoughts of love, peace and harmony throughout the world.

Weimar Sheet Metal Works
and Employees
Eagle Lake and Weimar

Wishing All My
Neighbors A Very
Merry Christmas
and A
Prosperous
New Year



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