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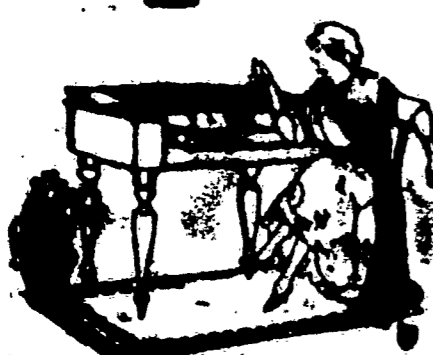
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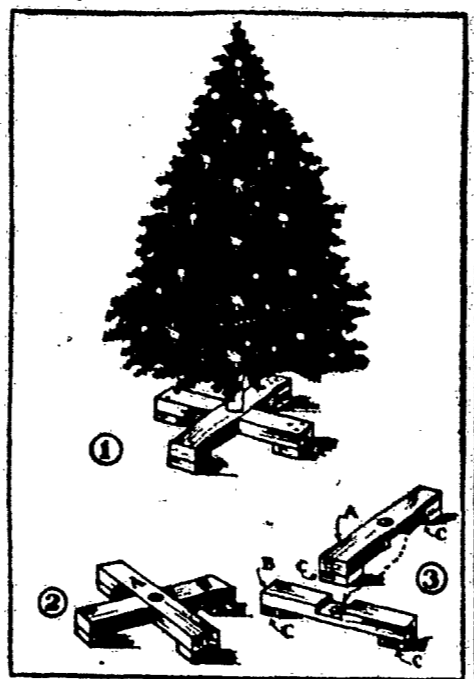
"Rochester's Home Store"

Standard for the Christmas Tree

By DOROTHY PERKINS

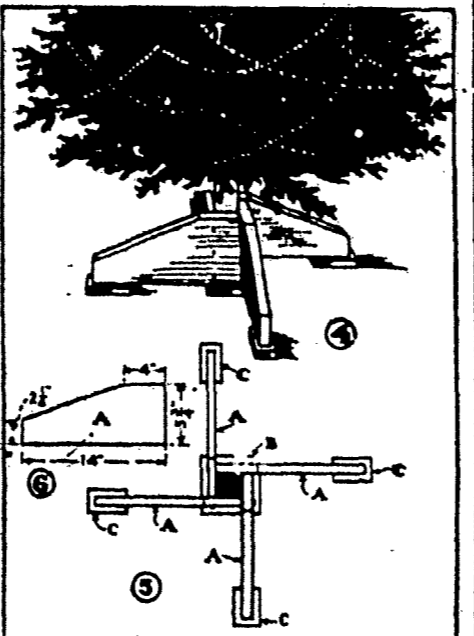
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Don't let the preparation of a standard for the Christmas tree go until the last minute. In the illustrations are shown three good schemes for standards. The cross standard in Fig. 1 requires two pieces of 2 by 4, 18 or 20



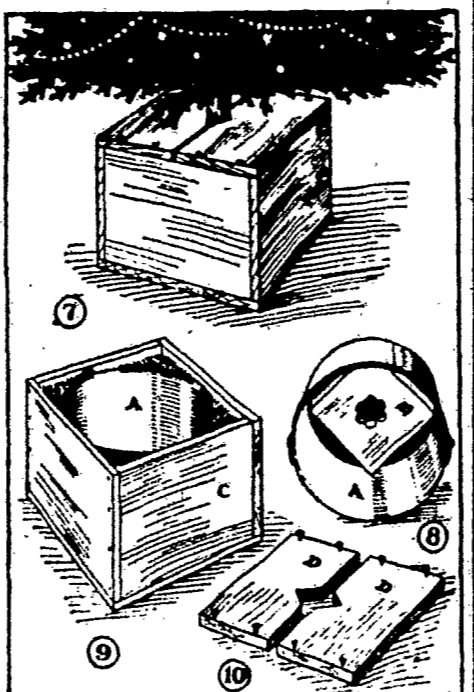
inches long (A and B, Fig. 2). To cross these pieces with tops even as shown, it is necessary to halve them, that is, cut from the center of each a piece equal to the width of, and one-half the thickness of, the other piece, as shown in Fig. 3. Then they will fit into one another. Saw along the sides of the notches, then split out the wood between the saw cuts with a chisel. The hole for the tree should be at least 2 inches in diameter. If you haven't an expansion-bit that can be set to cut a hole of this diameter, bore a ring of small holes, and trim up to the 2-inch diameter with a chisel. To the under side of A and B, at the ends, nail the shoe-blocks C. It is not necessary to nail A to B, if you nuke them fit snugly.

One advantage the standard in Fig. 4 has over that in Fig. 1 is that it is



not necessary to bore a hole for the tree trunk. Also, it is more pleasing in appearance. The plan view (Fig. 5) shows how the four arms A are fastened so as to enclose a pocket for the tree trunk. You will notice that each piece is fastened with nails driven through its face into the end of the adjoining member. A pattern for arms A is shown in Fig. 6. Boards 1/2 inch or 3/4 inch thick should be used. The center shoe B (Fig. 5), and the shoes C, should be cut of the right size to make projections of about 1/2 inch.

A Christmas tree will not dry out and drop its needles as quickly if stood in water, and Fig. 7 shows a



scheme which I have found successful. For a water receptacle, get a wooden or iron scrub-pail (A, Fig. 8). Cut a square block to fit in the pail bottom (B), and through the center of this cut a round hole to receive the end of the tree trunk. Make a box of just the right size for the pail to fit in (C, Fig. 9). Perhaps you can find a box of the right size or one which will require but little alteration. Make a cover for the box out of two pieces of board of equal width, as shown at D (Fig. 10), and notch the center of the inner edge of each, so that the pieces will fit around the tree trunk. Provide screws or hooks-and-eyes for fastening the cover boards to the box top. After setting the pail into the box, fill the square corners with sand to make the standard more solid. There will be no need of painting the standards in Figs. 1 and 7, if you dress them with crepe paper.

DECEMBER 5, ST. NICK'S DAY

Children of Holland and France Look for Santa Claus' Visit Early in the Month.

IN THE strict order of things children should have hung up their stockings for Santa Claus on Dec. 5, and rejoiced in his gifts. For it was the feast of St. Nicholas, alias Santa Claus. He has nothing whatever to do with Christmas, and his visit then is an Anglo-Saxon anachronism, which came from America fifty years ago. As their patron saint, children were taught to look to Nicholas for care and protection. To show the reality of his love for boys and girls, parents related that on his eve he went up and down the earth rewarding the good with presents, as he had in his life secretly thrown purses of gold into the rooms of poor maidens through the window. Children were taught to hang up their stockings which parents acting as the saint's deputies filled with sweets, apples, nuts and toys. In England the custom was abolished with the worship of saints at the Reformation, and was re-established in the American guise of Father Christmas in the middle of last century.

But in Holland Santa Claus makes his visit on the right day, Dec. 5. Instead of stockings, the Dutch children place their shoes, with straw in them for the donkey on which Nicholas rides, in front of the fireplace. In the morning good children find presents there, but the shoes of the naughty contain only a birch. The custom is the same in France. In southern Austria, a young man, arrayed as St. Nicholas, in episcopal robes, visits each house and examines the children in their catechism. To those who answer well the saint's attendant angels give fruit and sweets, while demons are admitted to terrorize the careless. On going to bed the children place baskets or dishes on the window sill for his future gifts. Catholic Germany furnishes the transition between the origin of Nicholas and modern Santa Claus. Arrayed as Father Christmas, he visits each home and questions the children as to their past conduct. For the good there are cakes and fruit, and for all a lecture. He then asks what presents they would like the Christ-child to bring at Christmas.—London Daily Chronicle.

FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Appropriate Decorations Add to the Zest and Gayety of the Yuletide Festivities.

IF SANTA CLAUS is to be present at the Christmas party supper—and of course he should be invited—he may appear in an automobile, but in order to be quite orthodox he should be driving his eight reindeer through the snow; and therefore the hostess should use a strip of snowy cotton wool plentifully sprinkled with frost for the table center. Purchase a somewhat large Santa Claus; he will be most effective dressed in a brown cloak with scarlet hood and cap. A fancy basket in the form of a wheelbarrow or chariot will answer the purpose for his sleigh, and should be loaded with presents of all kinds. The reindeer, which can be filled with sweets, may be harnessed to the sleigh with scarlet ribbons on which have been sewn a number of tiny bells.

At intervals down the table place boxes of bonbons in the form of Yule logs, with garlands of berried holly and mistletoe arranged from log to log, the menus to be in banner form, each one being held by a miniature Father Christmas.

A Cinderella scheme for the supper table is pretty. For the center purchase from your florist the wire frame of a coach. Cover it thinly with moss, binding it on with hemp; then cover it with scarlet geraniums, attaching the blossoms to the coach with fine silver wire; harness two milk-white toy horses to it with ribbons to match the geraniums. A smart little coachman and footman must be placed on their respective places, and a doll to represent Cinderella dressed for the ball should be sitting inside.

Appropriate presents to be placed for the children would consist of a slipper filled with sweets for each little boy, and a doll dressed as a fairy in white gauze spotted with silver stars, holding a tiny wand, would delight the heart of each little girl.



HIS SUGGESTION
"We'll have to economize this Christmas, my dear."
"Yes, but how?"
"I've an idea. Let's give our relatives the same kind of cheap gifts we always give my folks."

Tit for Tat.
The Poet: "May I read you my new Christmas poem?"
The Musician: "Yes, if you'll let me play you my new Christmas cantata."
—Flegende Blatter.

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