



Photos by Susan McKinney

Mrs. Pat Myers [far left] with a wreath she made using pine cones, fresh greens and artificial fruit clusters. Putting the finishing touches on the Christ Child's egg shell crib [left] is Mrs. Mimi McMahon. Giving mom [Mrs. Connie Amosson] a hand with Christmas decorations is Chad, 2 [center] and Brett, 5. Pieces of egg shell unfold on tiny hinges to expose an angel figure in one of Mrs. McMahon's creations, below.

## Christmas in Their Hands

By SHARON DARNIEDER

The ideas often aren't new but the people are. Each year someone somewhere makes her own Christmas decorations.

This year is no exception.

It doesn't take much. Just a desire to create, a few dollars for materials and some spare time. And it can net a windfall of compliments from friends and relatives.

Ideas for Christmas projects come from all over; craft clubs, magazines, friends, stores. But each woman has her own reasons for making seasonal trimmings, and often, her own ideas.

Mrs. Connie Amosson of Penfield does it for fun.

"If you don't have a job you have to have something more to occupy your mind than just routine housework," said the attractive mother of five.

Although all her other work presents a problem, she still squeezes out time for her hobby.

Mrs. Amosson moved here with her husband 3 1/2 years ago from Iowa.

### Anzalone to Be Honorary Vice Consul

Mayor Stephen May has presented Dr. Vieri Traxler, Italy's consul-general in New York City, with a key to the city and paid tribute to Arthur Anzalone on his designation as Italy's honorary vice consul in Rochester.

Traxler was in Rochester last weekend to make the formal announcement of Anzalone's appointment.

The mayor noted that Rochester, which, according to the 1970 census, has more than 54,000 persons of Italian descent in the area, enjoys strong and warm ties with Italy, particularly through its sister city affiliation with Caltanissetta in Sicily.

"I am confident that Mr. Anzalone, who plays a prominent role in the life of our Italian community, will work effectively to consolidate this city's especially close relationship with Italy," May said.

#### CORRECTION

Last week the chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell was incorrectly identified in both a picture and a story as Father James Cosgrove. Father William Cosgrove is the chaplain. His brother, Father James, is pastor of Holy Angels, Nunda; and Holy Name, Groveland.

"When I first came I started oil painting lessons and then neighbors got me into arts and crafts," she recalls.

She still paints and also belongs to the Village Green East Women's Association and the Penfield Craft Guild, which meets once a month.

Most of the ornaments on their tree were made either by her or the children, who range in age from 10 to 2.

Although she's made many things for her home, she usually gives most of it away as gifts. One of the creations she's kept for her own enjoyment is a styrofoam ball surrounded by clear plastic and cleverly suspended from a ribbon near a stairway.

She made it several years ago using small, clear plastic medicine cups fastened by their bottoms to the ball with glitter sprinkled on the inside glass bottom and rims.

Mrs. Mimi McMahon, also of Penfield, is a good egg to her friends — at least to those who've received her hand-made gifts. She's mastered the delicate art of painting and cutting egg shells.

She uses all kinds, from chicken and goose to ostrich and emu eggs. Using an electric drill and saw to help with her work, she plies her trade at Christmas as well as the rest of the year.

Emptying the shells is no problem, she says. After making a hole on either end for the liquid to run out she "Sometimes cleans 50 or 60 at a time using a bicycle pump."

In addition to more elaborate creations she's made several tree ornaments, cutting out an oval hole in front, placing a small figure inside and hanging it from a string.

"I do it more as a hobby," she says, "but I've had egg exhibits at the Fairport/Perinton Arts and Crafts Shows, Eastview Mall and Rochester Savings Bank."

She began working with eggs about four years ago when she saw a sister-in-law doing it.

Besides cutting holes in the shells to display the inside work, she also reattaches the pieces she takes off with minute hinges, forming a sort of door on the egg.

A talented artist, Mrs. McMahon sometimes paints a variety of floral and decorative designs on the eggs, as well as using beading. Often, the finished egg is mounted on a setting that suits its subject.

She's also made an ink drawing for her Christmas cards featuring her four children and their French poodle. Instead of making individual cards they're run off at a printers because "we usually have about 350 made," she said.

Mrs. Pat Myers, another of Rochester's "creative ladies" is a charter member of the Irondequoit Weather-or-Not Club (an arts and crafts club). She's belonged to it since 1960.

Her involvement with decorations began when she worked with flowers and crafts at her church, Summerville Presbyterian.

"My interest was initiated at that time," she said, "and it kind of grew from there, especially using natural things."

She likes to use greens, wicker

baskets and pine cones for many of her Christmas creations.

Although she does save money by making things herself, she's more interested in the satisfaction she derives from her hobby.

"By doing it myself and using some materials I grow (such as staw flowers for fall arrangements) I get a great deal

of satisfaction from saying I made it," she adds.

A unique wreath frequently graces the space above her fire place mantle during Christmas.

Mrs. Myers also enjoys making different place cards for each holiday. For past Christmases she's made wreaths, miniature topiary trees and pine cone birds.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To friends old and new we extend our warmest wishes for a very Merry Christmas. Let each of us rejoice in our hearts as we share the blessings of this holy season.

TENCOR  
REALTY

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