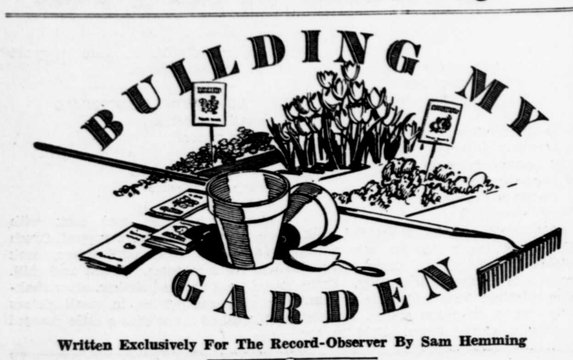
Community Sing At Opera House Dec. 20



Written Exclusively For The Record-Observer By Sam Hemming

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The use of certain plants as Christmas dceorations especially in the Churches is an ancient custom, and is probably an outgrowth of the use of certain plants in the sacred rituals of the pagan beliefs. The Druids, for instance, considered the Mistletoe sacred, and it is easy to see why. It is a parasitic plant on certain deciduous trees, which unorthodox behaviour would naturally arouse the awe of the superstitious.

Today we carry our oblivion of things superstitiously sacred to the extreme of unconsciously reducing the mistletoe towards extinction. It is not scarce yet, but it is less common and as it is of slow growth and difficult of dissemination, let me suggest that you do not collect it too generously. The American Holly too, is being gathered so generously that the supply is being reduced. Cut the berried Holly so that you do not ruin the tree. Prune the branches one to two feet long every other year and you will not harm the tree. Incidentally, Holly in the farm wood lot can be made a money crop with judicious handling.

Other decorative plants that have been over harvested are the Club Mosses locally known as ground pine and Turkey beard. These are much more scarce than they once were.

It is unforunate that these plants have been so badly depleted when there are other choice materials that can be used to advantage and in fact, will allow for greater variety.

Pine and Cedar are, of course, widely used, the latter is particularly desirable if covered with blue berries. Nowadays, the best source of Christmas decorative materials is your own planting of shrubs, etc., on your place. The pruning will do them good and you are not apt to take too much. English Ivy, the Evergreen Privets with their blue berries, the red berried Nandina, the common Laurel, the red berried deciduous Holly or coon berry, the Holly Osmanthus, the Deodara Cedar, the common gray berried Bayberry, and your own Holly tree can all be depended upon to give you all the gayety in decoration imaginable. Have you ever tried making your own wreaths? It is not difficult, you can use any one of the many evergreens as a base including Boxwood and then add sprigs of Nandina or Bayberry or deciduous Holly or Pine cones for color.

MORE BERRIES

In a recent issue I wrote about our showy native fruiting shrubs and trees. This week I shall mention some of the showy exotic fruiting plants. Naturally there are many that have attractive fruit so that I shall mention the most distinctive.

Perhaps the showiest of all is the Japanese Barberry, but, unfortunately it has been so over-planted that we are prone to associate it with sterotyped suburban planting. The red foliage in the fall, the red berries, and its low drooping habit make it desirable as a plant for banks and as a front plant in the border. Another genius in which there are a number of berried forms is the Gallicarpa or Beauty fruits whose various species bear brilliant purple or violet fruit on long drooping branches. Incidentally this ,when cut, and carefully defoliated will hold its berries for several months in the home.

The horticulturists have introduced many new varietties of Cotoneaster of which a number have beautiful red berries. Of particular desirability is the Rock Spray Cotoneaster which is low and spreading, and is nice for banks and against a wall. It is difficult to transplant.

In the other article mention was made of the American Holly. Some beautiful exotic Hollies are, the English with shiny leaves and red berries; the Japanese, a bushy form with black berries; and several little knnwn but beautiful forms from the Orient.

The bluish black fruited privets are all handsome. We are apt to think of the common California Privet hedging when we mention privet, but there are three very handsome forms. The glossy Wax Privet is evergreen and the Chinese and Regals are drooping graceful forms. All Privets have attractive white flowers which are a bit sickening sweet in odor.

I think the most handsome of all introduced berried shrubs is the Chinese Nandina, sometimes called Heavenly Bamboo. Almost an evergreen it bears large grape-sized clusters of brilliant red berries that hang on for four or five months. Clusters of the berries when picked and kept in the house will last almost a year. In the shrub border the clusters of berries stand out like a flame. The foliage is attractive, and the habit is short stalky shrub. Birds will eat the berries. Of interest as a curiosity, is the form with yellow berries.

Removing the veil from Turkish women has been a leading factor in getting them equality with men.

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Turkish women, slaves for centuries, now have excess to all professions.

TEMPLEVILLE

Miss Doris Ann Wyatt, of Marydel, was a week-end guest of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gurney Knots.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Starkey and children, spent Sunday with relatives in Wilmington.

Mr. C. Cooper Davis, of Washington College, spent the week-end with his father, Mr. John Davis.

Messrs. George and Norman Weedman, George L. Hart and John Walter Stant, of Sudlersville, visited Allen Stafford Sunday afternoon.

The annual Christmas entertainment will be held Wednesday evening, Dec. 22nd.

Mrs. D. C. Haines, Mrs. Gurney Knotts and Miss Blossom Cooper, spent Tuesday shopping in Wilmington.

The Ladies' Aid was pleasantly entertained at the parsonage Wednesday evening by Rev. and Mrs. R. G. Connor.

Butchering seems to be the order of the day in and around our town. Mr. William Jansen, claims the championship with a porker weighing, 450 pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. Wililam Jones, of Harrington, vistied with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goslin Sunday.

Messrs. Lewis Walls and Temple Stafford motored, to John Hopkins Hospital, Wednesday. They were acsompanied home by Mrs. Walls and infant daughter.

Mr. Howard West, of Wilmington, spent the week-end with his family.

CLOUGH—CLEVENGER

Miss Dorothy Clevenger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clevenger, of Grasonville, and Mr. Walter Clough, son of Mr. Washington Clough, of Chester, Md., were quietly married at the Stevensville Parsonage Friday evening of last week. Rev. James F. Langrall, pastor of the church officiated.

The bride was attired in a brown traveling suit with accessories to match. The young couple will reside at Dominion, near Chester.

Give a Man Something To Smoke

and his Christmas will be a happy one!

Christmas CANDIES

A gift the whole family will thank you a hundred times for.

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SMOKING TOBACCO
in all his favorite brands

At EATON'S you are assured that the above mentioned items are strictly fresh. We also have a wide selection of pipes of all kinds . . . priced reasonably.

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CENTREVILLE MARYLAND

ELEVEN IDEAS
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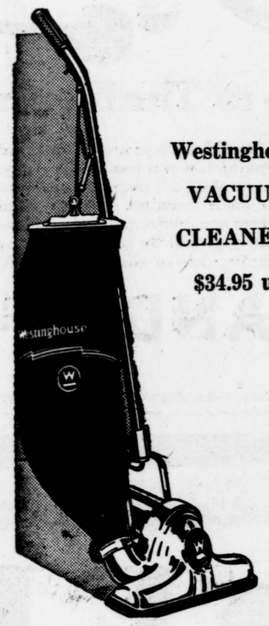
GIFT SHOPPERS

Westinghouse PERCOLATORS $4.95 up

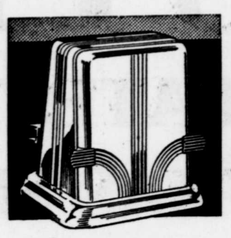


Westinghouse VACUUM CLEANERS $34.95 up

Westinghouse IRONS $2.95 up

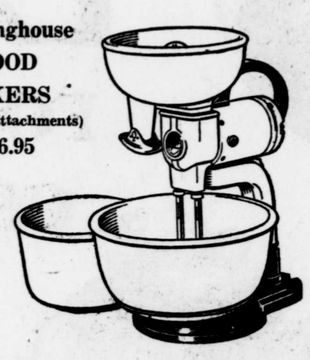
Westinghouse SANDWICH TOASTER $5.95 up

Westinghouse WAFFLE IRONS $5.95 up



Westinghouse TOASTERS $2.95 up

Westinghouse FOOD MIXERS (without attachments) $26.95



Cozy Blo PORTABLE HEATERS $8.95

Westinghouse and Philco RADIOS $19.95 up

Roper GAS RANGES $95.50 up

Quality Made ELECTRIC CLOCKS $3.95 up

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