

## Christmas Decorating

Indoors, outdoors, all around the house - Christmas is the season for decorating, and what a wealth of decorations there are!

The tree seems to be just the beginning. Its ornaments and lights become continually more varied and delightful.

Wreaths and greens, plants and bouquets, table centerpieces and window adornments appear in the home.

Outdoors, decorations range from a string of lights and a wreath on the door to manger scenes to such

creations as Santa, sleigh and reindeer up on the roof-top.

Some of the yard and roof embellishments are real works of art - no wonder communities give prizes for outdoor decorating and lighting.

A diversity of designs for decorating are ready-made, offering welcome help during the bustling holiday season.

Still, it's fun to use personal ingenuity and creativity in making unusual Yule decorations, suggest the editors of the Grolier Universal Encyclopedia.

One thought might appeal to bird-lovers: Place

a wreath, ready-or hand-made, outside a window. "Decorate" it with foods tasty to birds, such as peanuts, popcorn, cranberries and bits of suet.

Simple, personal touches make a difference. For instance, greens, ribbons and glittering balls can be attractively arranged on a table or shelf.

Just putting some colorful ornaments and pine cones in a big glass bowl brightens things up.

Set the kids to stringing cranberries and popcorn in the good old-fashioned way. It's surprising how pleasingly they blend with the modern marvels of tree ornaments.

Every area of the home deserves some holiday accents. How about fastening candy canes to a broad, bright ribbon and draping it around the kitchen bulletin board?

For the more ambitious, there's the kissing bunch, an old English tradition.

An easy way to make one is to buy a ball of plastic foam. Greens - red-berried holly for color, mistletoe for kissing - can be inserted in the foam ball. Then a gala red bow and length of ribbon to hang it by are all that's needed.

Too late for this season? Much of the joy of Christmas is planning for the next one.

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On Christmas Eve, bees hum holiday carols and melodies, says legend.

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**THE POST SHOPPE**



Celebrating the birth of Christ in song is a centuries-old tradition, as shown in the Christmas hymn above. The Latin hymn appears on a leaf from an illuminated Antiphony of 15th-century Italy, now in the Library of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City (Gift of Louis L. Lorillard, 1896). More familiar today is "Joy to the World," above right, by the English hymnist Isaac Watts, set to music by Handel. Song sheet by Hallmark.

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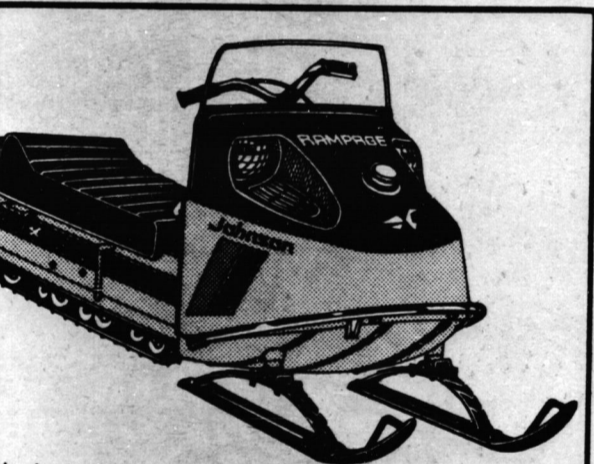
## Serve A White Christmas For Gala Holiday Dessert



Today eggnog rises to new heights as a Christmas Bavarian. A velvety white chiffon, Christmas Eggnog Bavarian is a fruit cocktail topped with eggnog for a table look and flavor. This dessert is quick to prepare you use bottled eggnog and whipped cream spiced with nutmeg. And the secret of holding the mixture high and firm is unflavored gelatin which lets the natural holiday eggnog come through. An added holiday plus is that you can make this towering dessert in the morning and have it set for dinner, with a minimum of work.

**Christmas Eggnog Bavarian**  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg, optional  
Unflavored Gelatin 1 tablespoon brandy or rum  
Sugar (29 ounces) fruit 1 tablespoon Curacao  
Fruit cocktail 1 cup heavy cream, whipped  
Prepared eggnog 1 tablespoon Curacao

Mix together gelatin and sugar in saucepan. Drain 1 cup from fruit cocktail; add to gelatin-sugar mixture. Place medium heat, stirring constantly 3 to 4 minutes until gelatin is dissolved. Remove from heat; stir in eggnog. Add brandy and Curacao, if desired. Chill until mixture is the consistency of unbeaten egg white. Fold in whipped cream. Pour into a 6-cup mold; chill until firm. Add Curacao to remaining fruit cocktail for sauce; chill. Unmold Bavarian and serve with fruit cocktail sauce.  
Yield: 8 servings.



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## Manger Scenes Inspire Rejoicing

Dramatizing Birth of Christ Awakens Awe and Wonder Creche, Christmas crib, manger scene, crib of Bethany, praesepe - in many countries, the representation of the Nativity through figures from miniature to life-size goes by many names.

Under any name, the re-creation of the manger springs from one guiding, and abiding, purpose - bringing people closer to Christmas. The highest wonder of the Christmas story is its sheer simplicity and reality.

A Child, the Son of God, born in a manger on a starry, silent night is a concept all can comprehend because of its closeness to human experience.

Anyone who watches a child before a manger scene this Christmas will readily see, in the child's awe and enthusiasm, that re-creating the Miracle of Christ's birth is an exalting experience.

Begins in Italy Christmas belongs to the people. So thought St. Francis of Assisi.

His way of helping his Italian parishioners grow

closer to Christmas was to create the very first praesepe, or Christmas crib. His carol, "The Song of the Creatures," made the Nativity still more real to them since it told of the lowly animals which were part of their lives and livelihood.

All this happened early in the 13th century. From that time, the idea of the creche or crib has spread to virtually every country on the globe.

Today, especially in Latin America and Europe, the manger scene sets the theme for a holy and happy Christmastide.

Told in Rhyme The story of the Nativity and its meaning for mankind is a favored poetic theme, as is the holiday cheer of heart and home.

Poets as diverse as William Shakespeare, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Greenleaf Whittier and T. S. Eliot have made their contributions.

Numerous carols first were poems - witness Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat, 'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep.'"

Probably the overwhelming winner among widely-known

secular Christmas poems is Clement Clark Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

The poem, written for his own children in 1822, is popularly called, "Twas the Night before Christmas."

Inspires Music In serious music as well as popular carols, the Nativity scene lives on.

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