

# BETTER HOMES & GARDENS Volume 25, Number 4

December, 1946

## FOR ALL THE FAMILY

There's a Santa Claus.....	4	Make 'em for a Merry Christmas..	85
Across the Editor's Desk.....	9	Back Talk.....	86
It's News to Me!.....	14, 16	You Can Afford Florida!.....	95
Santa Street—Where Neighbors Meet.....	18	Many Thanks—But What's It For? 102	
"...and Please Bring Me a Puppy" 23		Christmas Spirits.....	105
Profile of a Real Santa Claus....	27	Christmas Eve.....	106
Let Yourself Give!.....	45	Tips to Take You Places.....	112
The Building Bandits Are Back in Business!.....	48	Mexico—Where the "Hunt" Is Half the "Bargain".....	116
The Merry-Go-Round.....	78	Thru the Shops.....	148 to 155
		The Man Next Door.....	162

## FURNISHINGS AND DECORATION

Small Radios.....	20	Gifts for Children's Rooms.....	92
Store It Where You Want It....	34	They Turned a Veranda Into a Playroom.....	120
At-Home Gifts for the Family....	41	Which Problem Fireplace Looks Like Yours?.....	122
Music Gifts for the Family.....	42	Modern That's Easy to Live With..	140
Modern Wallboards Can Be Handsome.....	62		

## FOODS AND EQUIPMENT

Cranberries for Christmas.....	51	Cooks' Round Table.....	
Food With Holiday Glamour....	52	Poultry Stuffings.....	65
One Pound of Ground Meat—..	54	Yuletide Sweets.....	66
Popcorn Fun.....	56	Cooking Secrets From Your Kitchens.....	69
One Pound of Ground Meat—Spaghetti and Meat Balls....	58	Recipes for Cranberries for Christmas.....	88
Baking Short Cuts.....	61	New Kitchenware.....	130
Cash Contest for Cooks.....	76		

## HOME MANAGEMENT

Toys.....	10, 80	A Holiday Lift.....	72
Light Your Home for the Holidays	12	Young Mothers' Exchange.....	75
Christmas Is What You Make It...	28	Here's to an Easy Holiday.....	134
For the Christmas Table.....	30	My Nicest Gift.....	159

## GARDENING

How to Click With St. Nick.....	32	December Garden Guide.....	142
Say It With a Violet.....	38	Diary of a Plain Dirt Gardener..	145
How to Care for Christmas Plants.	109	Success With African-Violets....	156
New Under the Sun.....	136		

## BUILDING AND REMODELING

The House That Jack Built.....	36	The Building Bandits Are Back in Business!.....	48
Want a Little House?.....	44	Our Fireplace Made Us Burn....	82
What Is This Radiant Heating?..	46	Our Sons Moved Into the Attic..	129

Cover photograph: Anton Bruehl

6

## Among Ourselves

We were talking Christmas one recent afternoon. That in itself wasn't unusual; the editors had been planning this Christmas issue of *Better Homes & Gardens* for weeks. But when the conversation took a personal turn, we learned a few things which might interest you.

A snowy-white artificial tree, mounted on a music box, means Christmas to Fae Huttenlocher. It's about eight feet tall, and it has a story.

The year war started in Europe, Fae was in Chicago a few weeks before Christmas. One of the big stores was displaying its last shipment of made-in-Switzerland ornaments. The musical tree, glistening with "angel's hair" and tiny glass birds, was a part of that display. As the music box played "Noel" and "Silent Night," the tree turned slowly.

Watching and listening, Fae recalled her favorite childhood legend. It was the one about the little Christmas tree nobody wanted—remember? Birds came to rest on its branches, and spiders spun their gossamer webs there. On Christmas morning, the Christ child touched the tree, and it turned to silver.

Here, in a crowded department store, was the very tree. But acquiring the fragile tree, and moving it to Des Moines during the hectic Christmas rush, was a task. Fae had to talk fast to get the store's merchandise manager to sell the tree—it was there for display only. Then she had to ask a railroad executive for permission to load the tree in a baggage car. Finally, in Des Moines, she rented a truck to haul it home.

Now, when friends gather at the Huttenlochers' on Christmas Eve, the tree turns slowly to the tinkling strains of "Noel" and "Silent Night."

Before the war, Bob Crossley was a newspaperman. As such, he never found time to buy his wife's present until the day before Christmas.

One year he bought a dress for her. It didn't fit, so she returned it the day after Christmas. [Turn to page 158]

E. T. Meredith, Founder, 1876-1928  
Fred Bohen, President

E. T. Meredith, Jr., Vice-President and General Manager  
Glen D. Boylan, Vice-President and Director of Manufacturing  
Lester H. Mugge, Vice-President and Director of Circulation  
Frank McDonough, Editor

Associate Editors: Christine Holbrook, Myrna Johnston, John Normile,  
Fae Huttenlocher, Fleeta Brownell Woodroffe, Louisa M. Comstock,  
Dr. Joseph E. Howland, Ethel Brostrom, Ann Usher,  
Robert P. Crossley

Assistant Editors: Charles H. Swain, Ida Ruth Younkin, Guy Neff,  
Bob Jones

Editorial Assistants: Gretchen King, Jessie Prather,  
Mortimer P. Reed, Jr., Pat Flynn  
Wallace F. Hainline, Art Director

Bert Dieter, Art Editor

BETTER HOMES & GARDENS, DECEMBER, 1946



# Better Homes and Gardens

READ BY MORE THAN 2,850,000 FAMILIES  
DECEMBER 1946 • 15 CENTS 20c IN CANADA

MereMart.com®

*Vintage Magazines for Special People*

★ Christmas  
Decorations  
Foods, Gifts