

Season's Greetings...from Editor Joe

Happy New Year! Have you exchanged all your Christmas items for Valentine hearts and flowers? Or are you like me -- still putting that Christmas "stuff" away? It sure was a lot more fun getting out items before Christmas, wasn't it? Just when did those same items change from great to groan?? It would be a lot easier if every box for houses or accessories was a uniform size!! When you have limited storage space, packing away those village pieces turns my closet into one giant Sudoku puzzle!!! But now that is done and I have already checked out the pictures of the new introductions for 2007!! I'm hopeless!! I think I will be able to squeeze in another house or two!! Check them out on the Dept56 web site!!

Our next meeting will be at the home of Gary Heckman. Gary is a very interesting fellow who collects old music boxes, player pianos, and old movie items. We have been friends for a long time -- his daughter played Eulalie Shinn in "The Music Man" when we presented that at Lincoln High! (She was fabulous!!) Gary will tell you all about old music players, how to treat them, how to repair them, or maybe even where to acquire them! Don't be afraid to ask questions. Ask him about some of the old movie stars that he knows (like Yvonne de Carlo -- who recently died) and his trips to visit them. He will demonstrate some of the beautiful music boxes in his home. A word of caution: you will have to park on the side streets, so be prepared for a walk unless you arrive early enough! Most of all, have a good time learning about another kind of collectible! You might even be able to go home with an item he might be willing to sell!

If you have some display tips, get them to me. You could qualify to have your tip written up in the NCC Bulletin, like Vera Metzke! I'll even offer to help you write it up. It's a new year, so make a resolution to become a contributing member of our club!

A big "Thank You" goes to Belva and Chuck Adams for opening up their home for tour after the Holiday Dinner to view their display! --so neatly and cleverly done! I asked why they weren't on the December home tour! The response: "We couldn't get it ready by then." With their extensive additions, you can easily see why! But the effort paid off in a beautiful way.

Check out the website! Frank is updating the web page, so it is a good time to send in some pictures of your display for him to post! Remember--our website can be viewed by clubs all over the country!! Thanks, Frank, for all your hard work!!

I remember a card I received years ago that still makes me smile (of course the picture helps, too!): "Roses are red, Violets are blue. If you'd be my Valentine ---- woo! woo! woo!" Now send that on its way to your sweetie!!

♥ ♥ Happy Valentine's Day! ♥ ♥

Did you know? ----

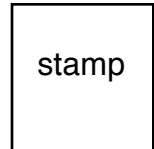
The oldest known greeting card in existence, is a Valentine card made in the 1400's and can be admired at the British Museum (London).

Over 1 billion Valentine cards are sent in the U.S each year.

Over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.



Nebraska Spirit of 56ers
5940 Sunrise Rd
Lincoln, NE 68510



(The NCC Bulletin included two "Courses in Designing Villages" in the latest issue. Tips from local collectors would be most appreciated. The following comes from Vera Metzke of the Wacky Willagers--in Illinois. --ed.)

Wreath Making 101

Supplies ---

House you wish to lace in wreath
2-3 "Charlie Brown" Garlands (cheap sparse garlands for \$2-3) in 9 ft. lengths
2 thin grapevine wreaths
Scrap pieces of foam
Floral wire
Wrapped floral wire
Pliers
Wire cutters
Accents -- decorations to theme or taste, ornaments, floral, ribbon, beads or such

1. Start with the 2 grapevine wreaths of same size placed on top of each other.
2. Select a house with the bottom holes such that 2 anchor wires can be placed. This is the tricky part. The house must have a place to feed a wrapped wire through a bottom window or door and through the base to secure it to the wreath. The endless lighting pieces -- remove the pack and use this based on the spacing. Set aside.
3. Based upon the size of the house, select 2 foam pieces to place on the bottom of the wreath between the 2 grapevine wreaths. Leave a space for the access to the light insert or the pack to change batteries. Use the foam only on the bottom of the wreath. This will create the bottom thicker than the top.
4. Use foam wire to secure the wreath-foam-wreath on each side. Go all around the wreaths. Secure the top as well just to know it is secure.
5. Take the garland and measure the piece to wrap around the side of the wreath. Measure at least 2 other pieces to wrap on the exposed upside of the wreath.
6. Tuck but do not secure at this point--the outer garland in-between the 2 pieces of foam to cover the inserts. Start your wrap at the foam and continue to wrap the 3 pieces till you have circled the wreath and returned to the foam on the other side. Pull out the garland you have used to cover the space between the 2 pieces of foam and continue to wrap the remaining 2 strands. That will leave the access to the light area.
7. Using a towel to protect the house, place it in the foam-wreath sandwich area and feed the ends of the wrapped floral wire through the garland wreath creating a secure anchor. I leave the twist tightening area in the back for easy removal if necessary.
8. Once the line is fed through the wreath take the 2 ends of each wrapped wire and twist with the pliers like you would any twist tie. You can feel the house secure down into its location. You can then lift the wreath with no sway of the house.

Now decorate the other portion of the wreath as you wish. Bows, picks, or other ornamentation can be used. If you do the bow and attach it to a floral stick you can change the other decorations for each season.

Pictures of the process and finished wreaths are on the NCC web site, www.ncc56.com. Step by step pictures will show you a variety of ideas that Vera has used for embellishments. This process could be used for different seasonal decorations. Check out the pictures--they are very good and useful! Thanks, Vera, for a display idea!!

(Additional editor's note: Here's a challenge: why not give this a try and then demonstrate making this wreath at one of our meetings?? It's a good thing! Just let Alyce know when you want to do it!)

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand -Nov 8, 2006 -----\$1,093.28
Total Expenditures -----1,216.51
(Omaha trip, supplies, dinners)
Total Deposits -----878.00
(Omaha trip, Dec and Jan dinners)
Balance - Jan 10, 2007 -----763.02

Respectfully submitted;
Clarence E. (Gene) Frederick, Treasurer

(For a detailed account, contact the treasurer or the editor)

Happy Valentine's Day!



Nebraska Spirit of 56ers
is a member of NCC
(National Collectors Club)
but is not affiliated in any way
with "Department 56"