

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H CIRCULAR 87

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

JANUARY, 1948

NATIVE CRAFTS

4-H Projects



Project Requirements

Native Crafts I - (Simple articles for young children)

Make 4 or more of the following articles:

Rock souvenirs as paperweights, flower pots and ash trays
Sedge fireside brooms
Yule logs
Yule candle holders
Mats of sedge, willow, buckbush, etc.
Bundles of fireplace pine knots
Bundles of pine cones for fireplace or for Christmas decorations
Winter bouquet and window decorations

Native Crafts II - (More complicated articles)

Make 4 or more of the following articles:

Letter openers of native wood	Bird houses
Paper file	Rock souvenirs
Toy blocks	Baskets
Book ends	Mats
Table mats, purses and scuffs of sedge	Wood Carvings (gavels, animals, etc.)
Wreaths	Bouquets and window decorations
	Packaged sassafras roots for gifts and sale

Native Crafts III

Make 4 or more of the following articles:

Baskets	Mats
Wreaths	Book ends
Stools	Lamps
Dolls (Cornhusk and nut)	Chairs
Mail boxes and "leave a note" boxes	Farm markers or sign boards (names burned or carved in native wood)
Rock souvenirs and stone carving	

Agriculture Library

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cornhusks	Grasses, berries and flowers
Bromesedge	Decorative material
Indian Coralberry (Buckbush)	Toasting forks
Stone	Reference material

INTRODUCTION

This circular should be regarded as an introduction to, rather than a comprehensive treatment of Native Crafts work for 4-H members. If it quickens the imagination in the field of Native Crafts, it has served its first purpose. Those interested will seek other sources of help and guidance of which there is a rapidly increasing supply.

Its second purpose is to give some of the techniques for using Native materials.

CORN SHUCK ARTICLES

Material needed:

Shucks
Large blunt pointed needle
Raffia or wrapping cord

Corn silks
Corn cob
White thread

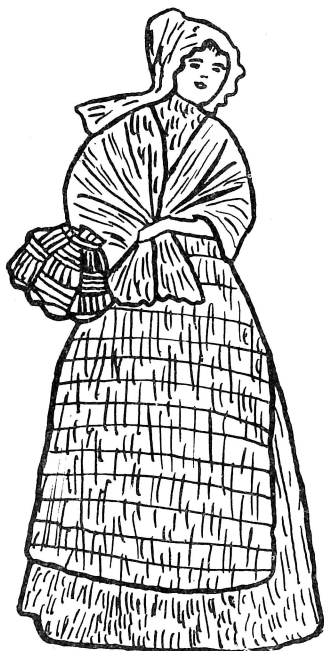
Large pan
Ice pick and small knife
Water colors

Preparation of shucks:

Select long, smooth shucks. Inside shucks are the best. Place shucks in a large pan of water for a few moments. If the shucks become dry while working, put them back in water.

Articles made from shucks:

Shuck Doll



You can make attractive shuck dolls. Dolls representing characters in stories are interesting. Animals may also be made.

Body and Dress - Gather 6 or 7 inside pieces and tie tightly together for the neck, 1 1/2 inches from the top or small ends. On the outside place large smooth shuck inside out, tie on for dress.

Arms - Roll two half shucks to the size of a lead pencil and tie them, big end at the neck. Measure to make desired length and wrap wrists with cord. Cut off at angle to make hands. Cover cord with a strip of shuck.

Head - Roll the ends of the short piece of the body over each other to form the head. Cover back and front with a long smooth shuck turned inside out. Let it extend down to waist in front. Tie at neck with 1 1/2 inches of shuck.

Apron and shawl - Tie cord around body to make waistline. Use a piece of shuck 1 1/2 inches wide around doll's shoulder, across front and down to waistline. Cut off all shucks at bottom so that the doll can stand alone. Use shuck 3 inches long for the apron, rounding it at the bottom. Braid corn silks for hair. Tie on shuck for bonnet.

Completed doll measures 10 inches long, 3 inches for arms, and head about 2 inches in circumference. The face is painted with water colors.

Braided Corn Shuck Articles

Many attractive and useful articles may be made as handbags, belts, sandals, mats and novelties. A braid is made of the shucks and then the articles are made of the braid. There are several types of braid that may be used, three ply, four ply, five ply, seven ply or nine ply, as shown in illustrations.

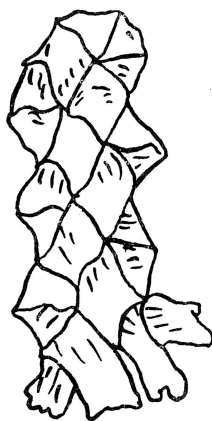
Making the braid:

1. Select the inner shuck which has a finer texture and better color than the outer. Use only shucks of same color and texture. Trim off the thick base of lower edge of shuck. Moisten the shucks to make them more pliable.
2. Cut the selected shucks into strips about 1/4 inch wide. These strips will give a braid about 1 inch wide. Each strip must be the same width. Having the strips cut evenly and being careful that ends of all new pieces added are concealed helps in getting a smooth braid. The success of any of these articles depends largely on the smoothness of the braid.

Suggestion: Before trying to braid the shuck cut several strips of tough brown paper 1/4 inch wide and 1/2 to 1 yard long. Practice braiding with these strips. The tedious part in working with the shuck is in having to add new pieces so often. The practice with paper will help to get the weave and learn to add new strips, which are simply slipped in under the piece that is giving out. Try not to let any two ends give out at the same time. Number each strip. Check the number of the strips as you braid with the numbers in the illustration. You will soon learn the weave and will be ready to try it out on the shucks.



3 Ply

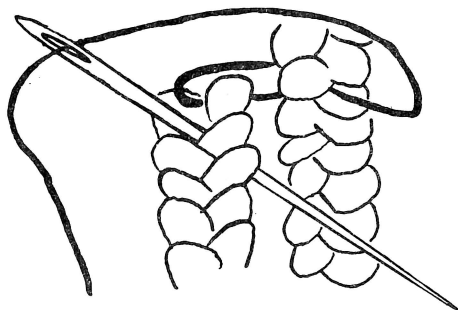


4 Ply

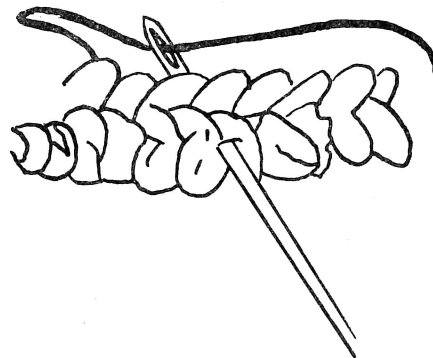


5 Ply

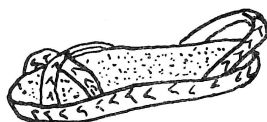
In plaiting with odd number of strands, say 5, separate the strands into two groups, taking 2 in one hand, three in the other. Then take the outside strand in the three group and weave to the center, thus making 3 on the opposite side. Take the outside strand on opposite side and weave to center. Repeat, always weaving with the outside strand from group having largest number. These braids are then sewed together, sometimes flat, sometimes on end, depending on the article you wish to make.



Sewed flat



Sewed on end



USING BROMESEDGE

Whisk brooms and hearth brooms may be made of the native grass which grows in most parts of Missouri and is known as bromesedge. It may also be woven into mats by using a loom.

In addition to being made for home use, these articles are saleable.

Bromesedge should be cut any time between October and April, preferably in November or December. The leaves are cleared only half way down the stalk, beginning at the root end.

This is inexpensive, easy to handle, useful and attractive. Boys and girls can have fun gathering it as well as cleaning and using it.

Hearth Broom

Equipment:

Bromesedge (500-800 stalks)
 Heavy cord (preferably two colors - about 100 ft.)
 Knife

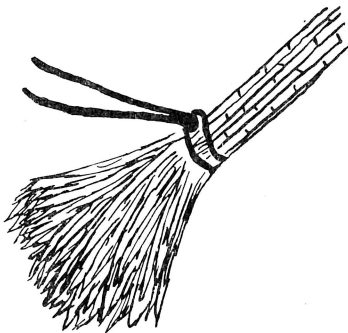
Procedure:



Braid 6 to 12 strands of cord about 12 inches long to loop for handle.

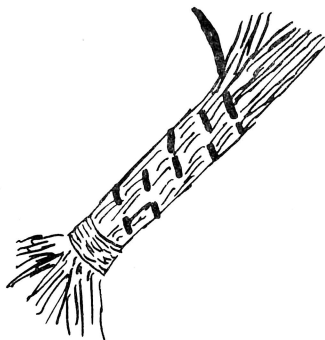


Beginning at the root end, clean the leaves from the bromesedge about half way down the stalk.

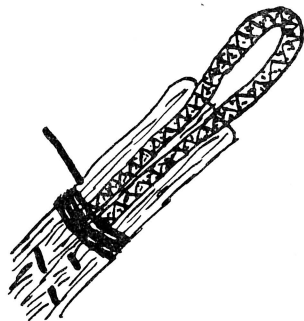


Take a bunch of broomesedge the size desired for the broom (preferably about 2 inches in diameter).

Double the 100 feet of cord and loop it around the stalks with a girth hitch where the lower part of the handle will be.



Wrap tightly and solidly for 1 to 2 inches then start spiraling the cord up the handle, going under about ten stalks and over about the same number around the handle. Pull the cord as tight as it can be pulled.



When about 4 or 5 inches from the end, double the cord braided for a handle and lay the open ends against the broomesedge. This means that the handle loop will be placed so it can be used to hang the broom. The two ends of the loop will be wrapped beneath the solid cord wrapping to anchor it.



Wrap the spiraling cord solidly around the bromesedge and over the cord handle for 1 to 2 inches, then pull the spiraling cord ends under the solid wrapping. This may be done by laying a single cord loop alongside the braided cord handle only in the opposite direction so that the loop can be used to pull the ends under the wrapping.

This means that the loop will be where the spiraling cord ends can go through it. The two loose ends of the loop cord will extend below the solid cord wrapping so they can be pulled to bring the spiraling cord ends under the solid cord wrapping.



With a knife whittle off the sedge ends to a smoothly curved top.

With the knife also trim the brush ends, or with the hand twist off excess brush ends to the desired broom length.

Beat the brush on a rock or log until loose particles have fallen out.

USING BUCKBUSH OR CORALBERRY RUNNERS FOR BASKETRY

Beginners should weave a mat about 6 inches in diameter before attempting to weave a basket.

The buckbush is a rough looking bush growing about three feet high, bearing clusters of small white flowers in the summer that turn to red berries during the fall. It sends out runners along the ground that provide a weaving material stronger than honeysuckle vines and as durable as reed and willow. The runners are especially practical for large baskets.

The vine runners may be gathered any time from August until the sap rises. The runners should be about two to three feet long. The bark is slightly scraggly, the color light brown. Grade the vines as to size and put them in rolls or hanks with the cut ends together. Wind each size vine into hanks as gathered. Clean and dry immediately after they are gathered.

Fill a pan with the hanks of vines with the coarse hanks of vines on the bottom. Measure the water which is used to cover the vines. To each gallon of water add one tablespoon of soda dissolved in a pint of hot water. Boil from 2 to 4 hours. To peel the bark off, wear a coarse cloth glove or protect the hands with heavy cloths. Rub off the bark and trim away the knots with a sharp knife.

When the vines are clean, wind them into hanks to dry. Store in a dark, dry, clean place. Before using, soak them in water an hour to make them pliable.

Buckbush Basket

Equipment:

Buckbush runners, at least 50 (cleaned and dried) - Thick vines for spokes
Fine vines for weavers

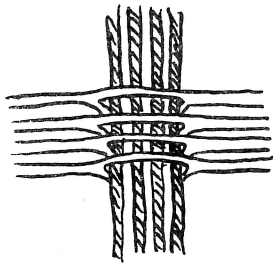
Sharp pointed knife
Bucket of water

Procedure:



Soak well eight medium sized spokes at least 8 inches long.

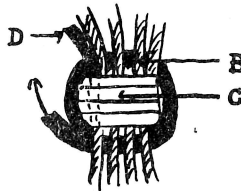
Split four at their centers.



Insert four others through them. This makes two groups of SPOKES that cross at right angles.

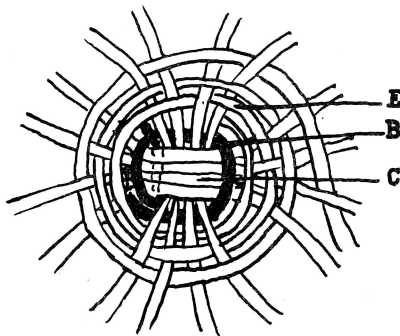


Insert end of a fine WEAVER (shaded) beside whole spokes.



Carry it upward over split spokes and under its own point D.

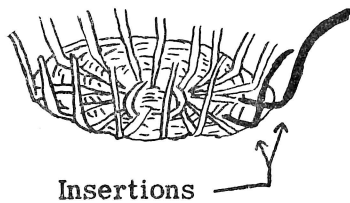
Weave clockwise under four spokes and over four, continuing three times around. Then pass the weaver over two spokes and under the third, E, and keep weaving around, "over two and under one"



When a new weaver is needed, take another runner about the same size as the one just used. Insert it just back of where the last one ended. The single weaver comes out at a different spoke each time around, making a weave of close texture.

This single strand weave can be used only over a number of spokes not divisible by three - for seven or eight but not nine; ten or eleven, but not twelve, etc.

The weaver should always be a little less heavy than the spokes or the spokes will be bent out of shape by the strength of the weaver.



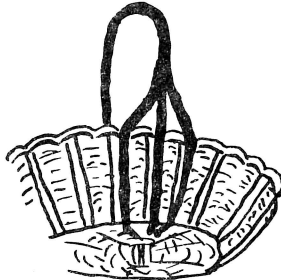
The spokes for the base may be cut long enough to bend up for the basket sides. The spokes are soaked to make them pliable and bent upward. However, if the base spokes are large, they should be cut off and side spokes slightly smaller in diameter inserted.



To weave the sides we pass under and over the side spokes with a flexible weaver. This should be slightly smaller in diameter than the side spokes.



To finish the top of any basket, the side spokes are twisted in and out of each other. The side spokes must be soaked until pliable so they will not break when turned down.

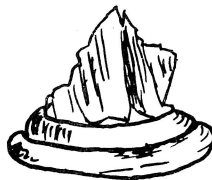
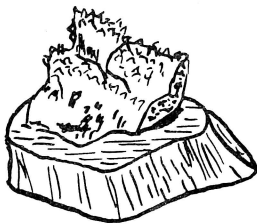


If a handle is used, it should be well fastened to the basket sides. The ends should be tapered to make it easier to push them through the woven basket.

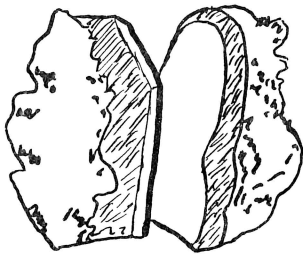
STONE ARTICLES

Interesting stones may be made into paperweights, bookends or flower pots.

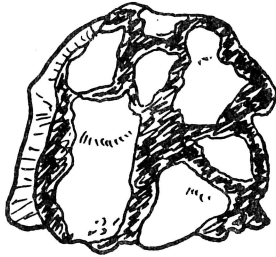
For paperweights the stones may be cleaned and mounted on wooden bases or in glass coasters, or they may have a piece of felt glued to the base and be used without mounting.



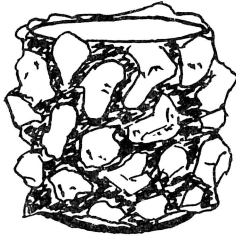
To clean stones, soak them at least two hours in vinegar solution (3 tablespoons of vinegar to 1 cup of water) then brush with soap suds and rinse with clear water.



Book ends or door stops may be made of large stones cleaned and squared up with cement. After the cement has dried, cover it with wool or felt so it will not scratch.



Small stones may be set in cement for the same type of book end or door stop.



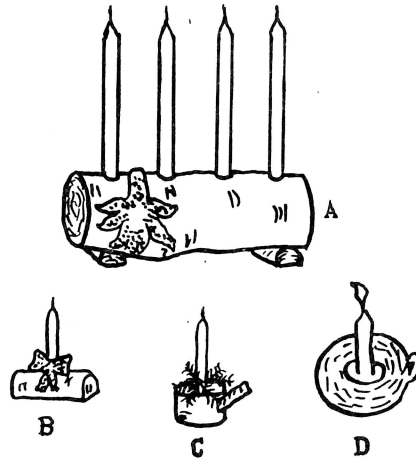
Flower pots may be made of small stones and cement using a coffee can or similar container for a form.

DECORATIVE MATERIAL

Ideas for Christmas Gifts and Sales

Yule Logs and Candle Holders

Use woods with interesting bark. Make log 8" to 18" long with two to five 1" holes drilled for candles. (Illustration A). Small logs may be made as B or C or candle holders may be made as D. To make D, saw off a slice of limb 1" thick and about 5" in diameter. To this glue a 1" thick slice of 2" limb with a 1" hole drilled in it for the candle. A handle may be glued on. It can be made of a 1/2" slice of the 2" limb with one side cut away where it is glued on the base.



Mistletoe

Mistletoe may be gathered and packaged in cellophane bags. It will sell readily or make excellent gifts to those who do not live where it grows.

Pine Cones

Pine cones in various shapes and sizes may be packaged in cellophane bags or in boxes or they may be tied together with colorful twine and given or sold for Christmas use as decorations.

Pine Knots

Pine knots or chips may be gathered and packaged for kindling. People with fireplaces will appreciate these.

Tips on Preparing Native Christmas Decorations

Preparing Cones for Burning at Christmas Time'

Use two tablespoonfuls of powdered glue in one gallon of water. Dip the pine burrs and drain. Sprinkle the chemicals on them and let dry.

Chemicals

Strontium Chloride - Makes red flame
Barium Chloride - Makes green flame
Copper Sulphate (Blue stone) - Makes blue flame
Potassium Chloride - Makes lavender flame
Sodium Chloride (Table salt) - Makes yellow flame

Steel dust, saved when tools are being filed, sprinkled on the burrs makes them sparkle when burned.

To Preserve Magnolia Leaves

2 parts water
1 part glycerine

Method: Put stems, only, in the mixture. Let stay two weeks. Take out, then they will last indefinitely.

To Preserve Autumn Leaves

Press with a warm iron. This preserves the color. These pressed leaves may be soaked in a solution of one part glycerine to nine parts of water. When thoroughly soaked, remove and press between blotters.

Such leaves remain flexible forever. They they can be glued to branches at each point where one has been removed.

To Prevent Holly from Shedding

Spray holly twigs with a .01 percent solution of naphthalene-acetic acid. The leaves will remain firm after the twigs are dead and dried out.

How to Keep Gathered Flowers Fresh

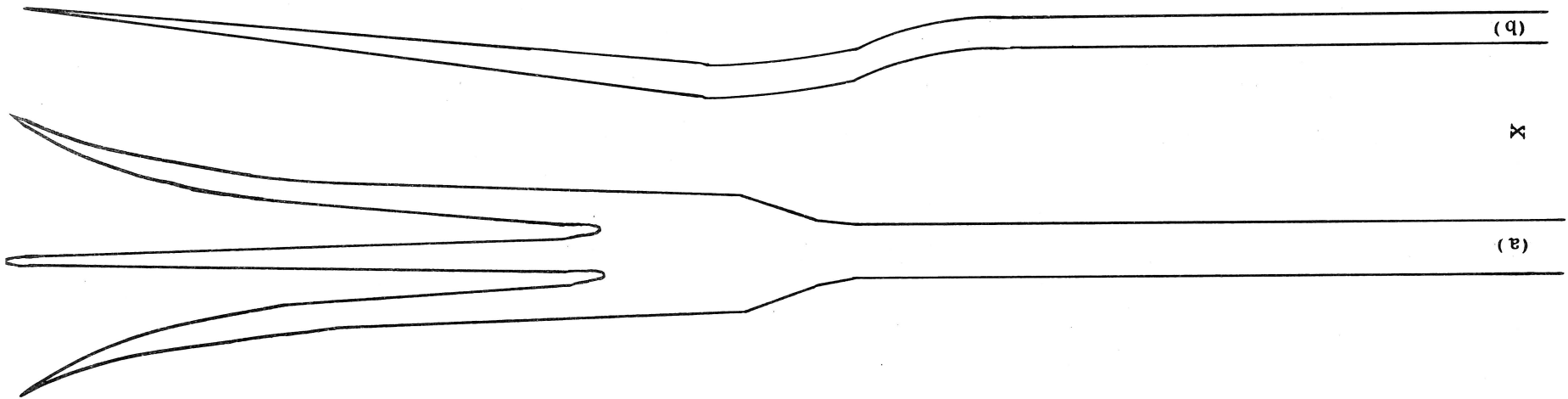
Immerse in a solution of gum arabic in water two or three times. Allow gum to dry between each immersion.

Stiffening Stems of Flowers

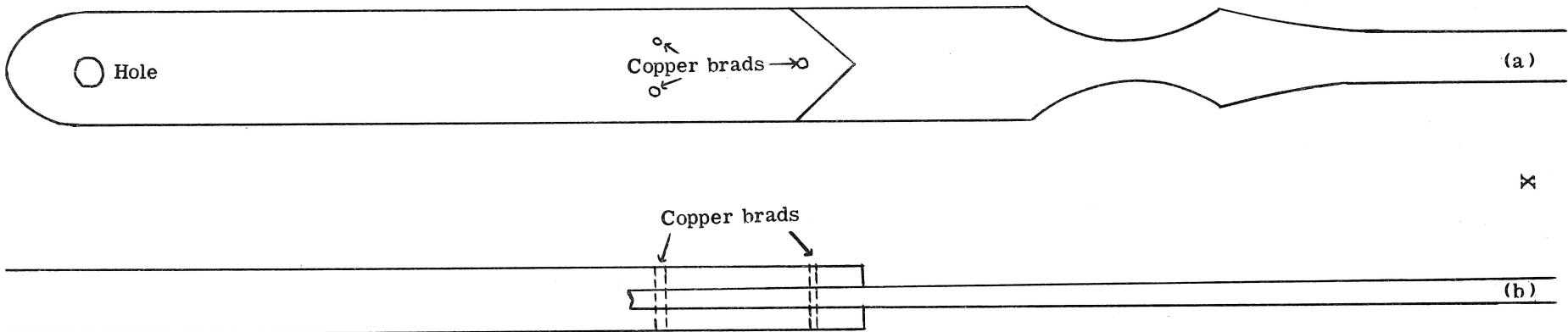
Put stems in a 2 percent colution of calcium nitrate and leave them as long as you wish. Use 2 ounces of the chemical to 10 gallons of water.

Preserving Color in Evergreens

Color in cedar or pine is preserved by soaking branches in a strong solution of sulphate of ammonia (ordinary commercial fertilizer). Use one quart fertilizer to two gallons of water. This is a very nice way to treat a Christmas tree. Let it stand in the solution overnight or two to three days.



Cut here, match edges at X, then fasten together



Make fork of green hickory and handle of walnut - curve prongs at base of tines by bending the material

BOOK AND BULLETIN REFERENCES FOR NATIVE CRAFT

Carving

- Chip Carving - Iowa State College Bulletin - Extension Service, Ames, Iowa
Wood Carving for Pleasure - Western Pine Association, 516 Yeon Building, Portland, Oregon

Basketry

- Basket Pioneering - Osma Palmer Couch
Fine Willow Basketry - A. G. Knock
Seneca Splint Basketry - Majorie Lismer, Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas
Pine Needle Basketry in Schools - U.S.D.A. Bulletin 1917 #3

Weaving

- Key to Weaving - Mary E. Black, Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Handloom Weaving for Amateurs - Kate VanCleve, Beacon Press, Boston, Massachusetts
Instruction in Methods of Seat Weaving - H.H. Perkins Company, 256 Shelton Ave., New Haven, Connecticut

Building

- Play Materials Made From Waste - Claire Lambert, Play School Association, Inc., 1841 Broadway, New York City
Bird Houses Boys Can Build (24 workable drawings) - Home Craftsman Magazine, New York City
Drawings of Bird Buildings - Extension Service Bulletin, Massachusetts State College Extension Service, Amherst, Massachusetts
You Can Make It - Vol. 1 (Directions for such as vegetable crate, berry box crate, book shelves, tool and silver boxes, letter rack, magazine rack, sawhorse, poultry feeder and waterer, wastebasket, window box, etc.)
You Can Make It - Vol. II (Articles as beach sandals, camp signs, foot scrapers, games, bait boxes, bird houses, camp equipment, etc.)
You Can Make It - Vol. III (Christmas tree stands, vegetable stand, whatnots, bookcases, stools, tables, chairs, toys, etc.)

Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

HANDICRAFT BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION,
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

- The Basketry Book (Fundamentals of reed weaving) - Blanchard
Craft Work (Good basketry section) - Cave
Creative Cratecraft (Furniture from orange crates and discarded boxes) - Champion
Creative Hands (Decorative stitchery and cardboard crafts is useful. Other crafts too hard to find materials.) - Cox
Adventures in Scrap Craft (Working with wood, felt, tin can, wallpaper and other paper and scrap plastics) - Dank
Creative Crafts in Wool - Dank
Arts and Crafts for Home Decoration - Dennison
The Art of Whittling - Faurot
Home Handicraft for Girls - Hall
Handicraft for Girls - Hamilton

You Can Whittle and Carve (Well illustrated and excellent directions for reasonably talented amateurs) - Hellum
A Boy's Treasury of Things To Do - Horowitz
A Girl's Treasury of Things To Do - Horowitz
Ben Hunt's Whittling Book (Looks rather intricate) - Hunt
Indian and Camp Handicraft - Hunt
The Textile Arts (Weaving, braiding, batik work, fly tying) - Johnson
Things Any Boy Can Make (The boy's own book of home-made toys) - Leeming
New Ideas in Woodcraft - Lemos
Woodcraft (One of the best single volumes on all types of camp craft, rustic woodwork, bark craft, bamboo craft, and work with rawhide, buckskin, horn, and feathers) - Mason
It's Fun to Make Things - Parkhill
The Book of Wood Carving (A text for beginners) - Sayers
How to Make Baskets (complete) - Talbot
Design and Figure Carving (Only for the very skillful carver) - Tangerman
Whittling and Wood Carving (very complete) - Tangerman
Let's Make More Things - Zachy
Let's Make Something - Zachy

MOTION PICTURE FILMS FOR NATIVE CRAFT

Patterns of American Rural Art (1 reel, 16 mm. sound, in color; released in 1942. 10 minutes) Objects of rural handicraft exhibited in the Rural Art Exhibit held in Washington in 1940.

Democracy at Work in Rural Puerto Rico (2 reels, 16 mm. and 35 mm. sound; released in 1942. 20 1/2 minutes) Shows 4-H Club work but not much handicrafts.

Outlines briefly the history of Puerto Rico. Discusses the agricultural resources and problems. Shows how the rural people, under democratic guidance, are improving live-stock, better farm and conservation practices, introducing new and developing old handicrafts industries, and better the lot of farm youth through the 4-H Club work. Contains beautiful scenes, folk song and other music of the Island.

Motion Picture Service, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

SLIDE FILMS

Basketry, Another Home Industry No. 292. Slightly revised December, 1941.

Colonial Home Industries No. 517. Released April, 1939.

Rug Making, A Fireside Industry No. 264. Slightly revised December, 1941.

All of these are made on 35 mm. nonflammable film stock. They must be used in projectors designed to accept them.

Visual Aids Division, Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Native Arts of Old Mexico (2 reels 16 mm. and 35 mm. sound, 1937) Pottery and tile making, leather work, weaving, figures out of straw, reed basket making, wood turning, etc.

Director of U.S. Films, Federal Security Agency, U.S. Office of Education Film Service, Washington, D. C.

A List of films may be obtained by writing Mr. Simon Monselsio, Producer, Art Department, Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

J. W. Burch, Director, Agricultural Extension Service

Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, and June 30, 1914

MU Libraries
University of Missouri--Columbia

Digitization Information: 4-H club circulars

Local identifier circ087

Source information

Identifier	Withdrawn, duplicate copy.
Format	Book
Content type	Text
Notes	

Capture information

Date captured	2017 May
Scanner manufacturer	Ricoh
Scanner model	MP C4503
Scanning software	
Optical resolution	600 dpi
Color settings	grayscale
File types	tiff
Notes	Some page curvature due to tight binding.

Derivatives - Access copy

Compression	LZW
Editing software	Photoshop
Resolution	600 dpi
Color	bitonal
File types	tiff converted to pdf
Notes	Images edited: lightened, contrast increased, resized, and noise removed.