JEFF COBB By PETE HOFFMAN

# Be the Central Jewel In Your Party Decor

by Count Marco

Guests usually show up at a party for one or all these reasons: They enjoy the hostess' company, they enjoy the food, or they just enjoy getting drunk, because of an unlimited liquor supply. What attracts your guests?

Ruth, a charming and attractive restaurant hostess, came over to my dinner table the other evening and said, "I've been waiting for a long time to have this opportunity to talk to you."

*She had a pet peeve. It seems that last year during the holiday season whenever she went to a party all the guests appeared either in long gowns, or other formal attire, but the hostesses almost always sported some awful thing like gold lame Capri pants, or other similar desecration of the female figure. "Write something about it, please," she pleaded.*

A party is for fun. Why any woman goes to the trouble and expense to entertain and impress friends and then spoils the entire effect by looking as if she were so busy with party preparations she had no time except to put pants on is beyond me.

I ask you, what good is a turkey without the dressing at holiday time? By the same token, what good is a hostess who looks like a turkey without the proper dressing? If your guests can find the time and inclination to show up properly attired at your invitation, the least you can do is to plan your wardrobe accordingly.

In fact, a good hostess plans her entire ensemble to complement the decor of the party she gives. Many marvelous hostesses I know usually find the outfit first and then decide to throw a party to show it off.

*Certainly it takes time to dress properly to please yourself and delight your guests. You manage somehow to find the time to plan and execute your party; find time for yourself too. You owe it to those who love you to look like an ornament.*

Whether you wear a long gown, a cocktail dress or a hostess gown doesn't matter, just so long as you look as though you cared, and that the party is not just a debt you're forced to repay.

The fact that the party is given in your home does not give you a special license to be less than the woman your public expects you to be.

Now get some fun out of these parties you throw, or you might get thrown yourself. Happy holidays.

RED RYDER By Fred Harman

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## Garden Checklist

1. This is bareroot planting season when your dormant plants are least expensive. Don't forget to cut off the scuffed or broken root ends when you plant.
2. Plant grapes, berries and fruit trees now. Soak the plants in well, then let the rains take over.
3. You can still set out bulbs. Tulips, hyacinths, daffodils are the big ones. Get them planted without further delay for good spring bloom.
4. This is the important time for dormant spraying of fruit trees. Ask your nurseryman what to use—and if you don't know for sure, ask him about the best way to apply it
5. This is catalog-study time. You can get an idea what you want come spring. You can then check with your nurseryman to see when he'll have the plants you want so you can prepare your planting areas in advance.

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