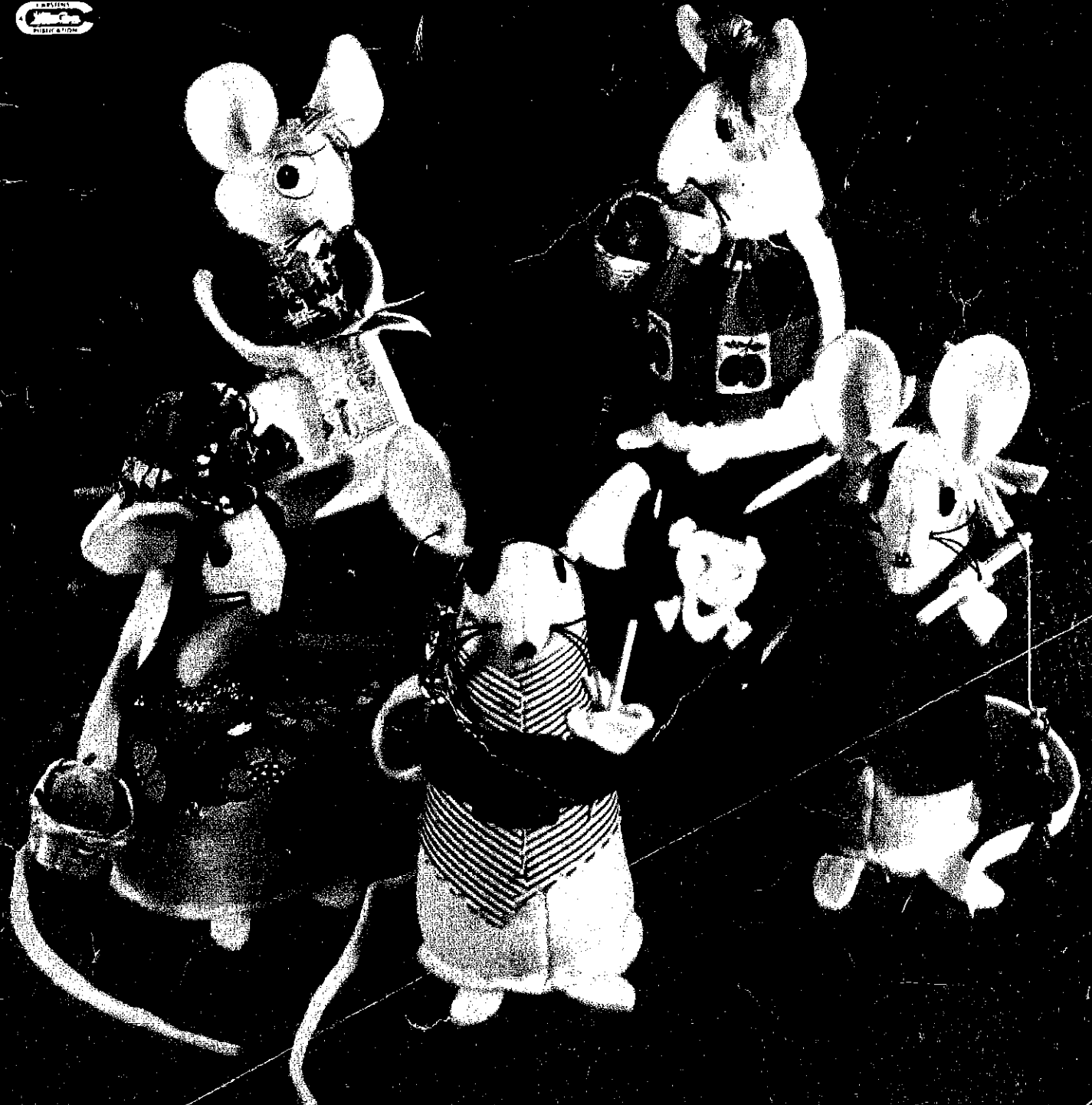


CLOCK-CRAFT • TISSUE COLLAGE • GLASS FUSING • DECOUPAGE

# CREATIVE CRAFTS

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No. 9 50¢



Kodachrome by Carstens

SIMPLE AND STURDY DOLLHOUSE FURNITURE • HOW TO ANTIQUE ANYTHING

# craft ideas with: CEMENT AND POWDERED ASBESTOS

The barklike appearance of this easy-to-make mixture is especially effective for planters. You will probably find lots of other uses for this versatile material, too.

by Gertrude Springer

The cement for this craft can be Portland cement, brick mortar, or any cement which you find around building projects. The powdered asbestos comes from the hardware (and country stores are your best bet here) or a plumbing shop and it is around 10¢ a pound. You may have to get a craft club interested and have the hardware store order a #25 sack in order to get it.

The planters can be any size from the long tin frozen juice cans which would set on a window sill to a large drum for porch or patio. If the latter, you would cut out the top with a cold chisel or some power tool. For outdoor use, I'd also paint the drum with any oil based paint and let dry to "tacky" before spreading the cement mixture on it. This causes it to adhere



Build handles on a syrup or wine bottle by putting wire rings at top and bottom and filling in with many strands of wire (stove-pipe wire is a good weight). Anchor the wires with a final wire wound around each handle. After covering jug with mixture, spray paint and then add floral designs by shaping petals and leaves from asbestos-cements. Paint with enamel when dry.

CREATIVE CRAFTS

Our geranium planter was created by cutting a section from a large tin can, covering it with cement and powdered asbestos mixture, and scoring the surface to make it resemble tree bark.

better. Be sure all oil or grease is washed off the can, no matter what kind or size. You can also put a few nail holes in the bottom for drainage, depending on what type of plants you will be using.

You can make an upright planter by using an ordinary tin can set upright and covered with the mixture, and adding extra at the bottom to represent tree roots, so that it looks like the lower part of a tree stump when finished.

For a finish, paint with brown paint and tinge with green to look "mossy" or spray with aluminum as this "plant log" was done. It has the illusion of a silvery bark and you can put a few "knots" in it for added interest.

All sorts of shapes and sizes of can can be used to make planters and vases when covered with this easy-to-make mixture. ☞



Mix one part powdered asbestos and three parts Portland cement with warm water, blending until you have a dryish mixture and no water rises to the top. Spread it over tops and sides and press in a little extra at each side bottom so that the can will have a base on which to rest. If the weight of the mixture causes a sagging at the top sides, fill in until it is even with the cut edges. Taking a nut pick or ice pick, draw uneven lines lengthwise on can sides and top, and draw circles or concentric rings at the ends to represent the tree growth rings. Let dry for several days.

