

Pressed Flower Frames

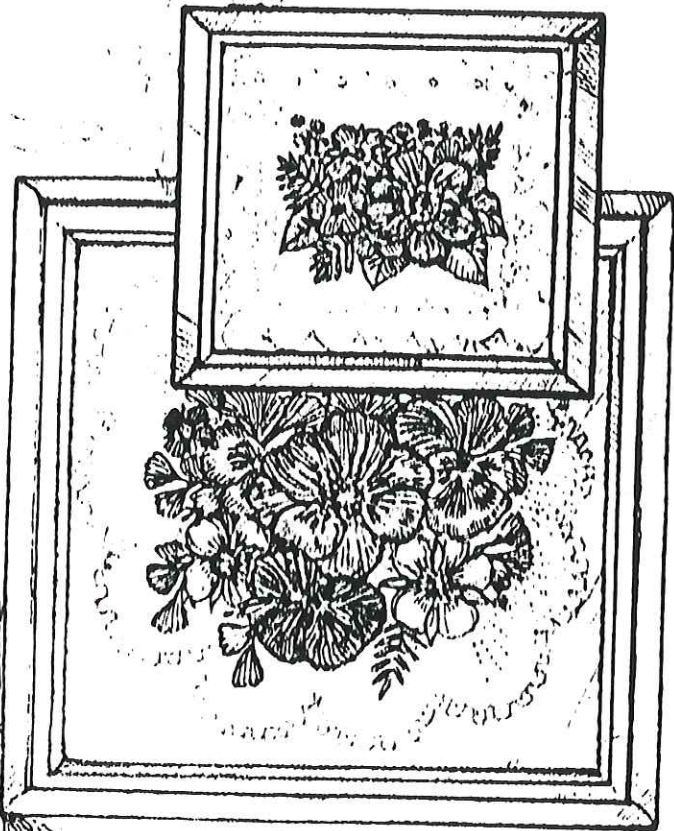
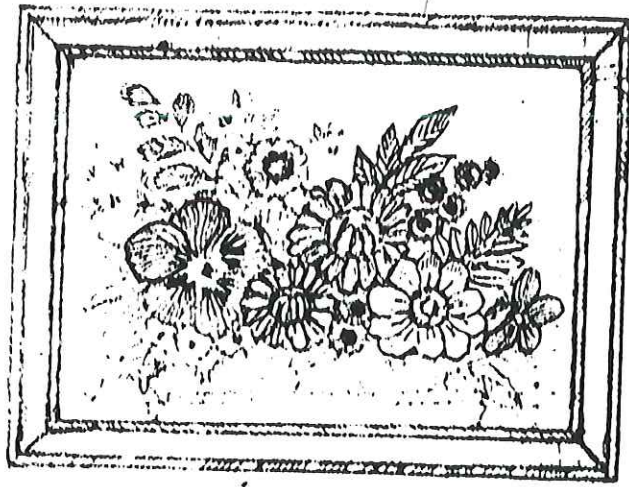
Mothers Day

When workers went "a-mothering" in England so long ago, they would often pick small bouquets of violets or wildflowers on the way home and present these to their mothers. During the first official Mother's Day observance on May 10, 1908 at a church service in Grafton, West Virginia, the sanctuary was decorated with carnations. Flowers have been associated with the holiday ever since.

Instead of giving fresh flowers, you may want to give a floral gift that is longer lasting. Pressed flowers combined with a piece of crocheted lace can make a lovely keepsake. Put it in an old-fashioned frame for a finishing touch.

1. There is an old-fashioned way to press flowers that is very simple and inexpensive. Put the flowers between layers of paper towels, then put the paper towels between layers of wax paper. Insert flowers and papers in a book. Then pile heavier books on top and leave for 2 weeks. This method also works nicely with ferns and small leaves.
2. Cut out a piece of cardboard to fit your frame and glue on a fabric or paper background; dry. Place a round lace dolly on the background and arrange your flowers and leaves on the dolly when you are satisfied with the composition. Glue the flowers in place by using small amounts of glue on a toothpick. The smaller the amounts of glue the better, as glue can cause the flowers to discolor; let dry.
4. Cover the design with glass and frame.

*You may want to use a piece of lace as a "vase" and arrange your flowers to look like they're coming out of it.



EXTRA EASY

Dried Flowers

Preserve flowers from special occasions to cherish as keepsakes! One of the simplest ways is to dry the flowers in a mixture of one part borax to five parts cornmeal. Cover the bottom of a box with about 1/2" of the drying mixture. Carefully sift the mixture between the petals, lay the flowers

in the box, and cover with the mixture completely. Do not close the box, or the moisture will not be able to evaporate. Check the flowers every few days—the thinner the blossom, the faster it will dry. Use a small artist's brush to carefully remove any residue remaining on the petals.