

FILE NAME: Smoking (SMOK)

DATE: 1964

DOC#: SMOK051

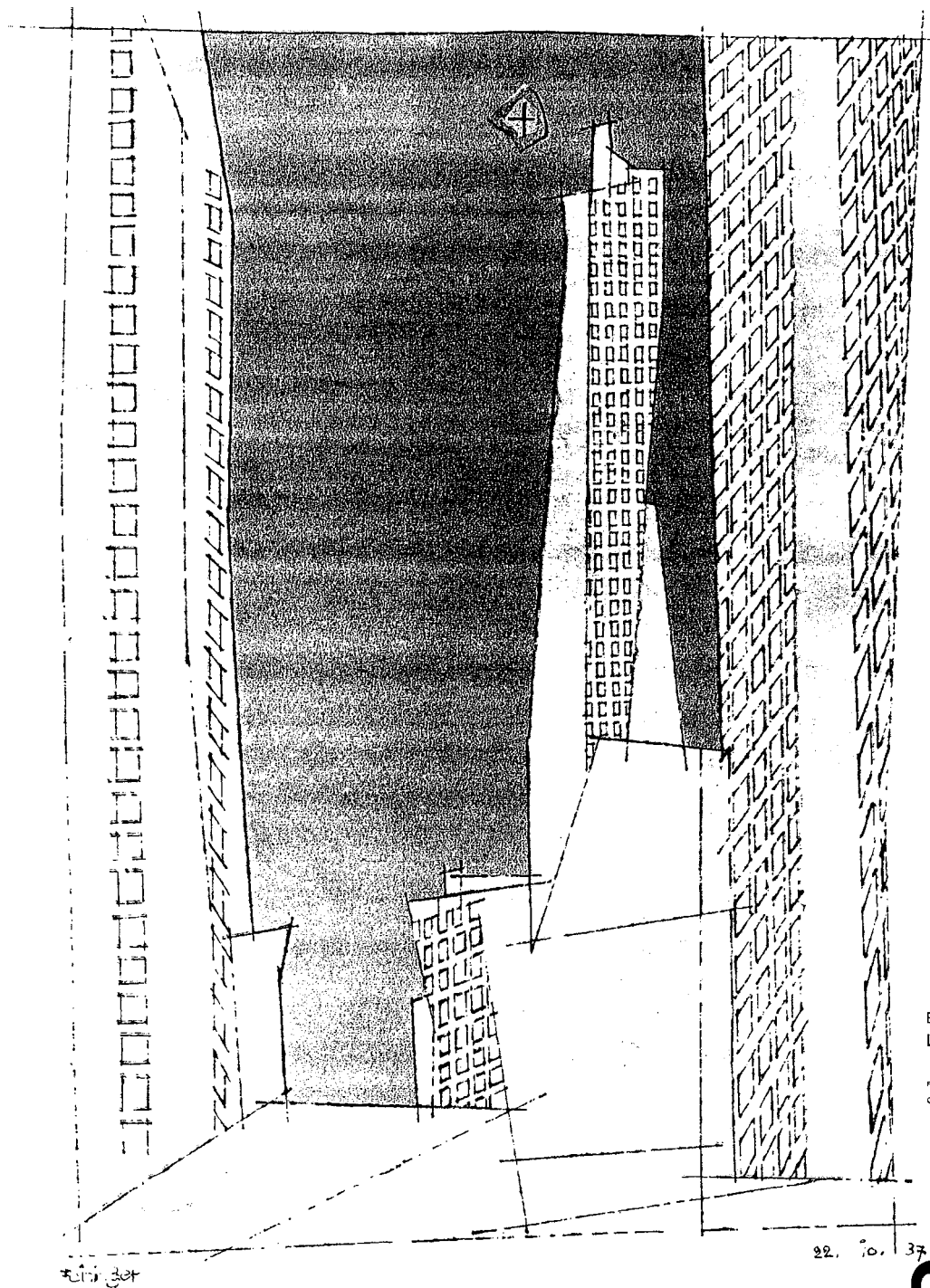
DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Excerpt from The Instructor with  
Asbestos as Ingredient Listed for Projects

*The Instructor*  
*1964*

# the Instructor



DECEMBER 1964 • 75 CENTS



BLUE SKYSCRAPERS  
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NO. L1080

NUMBER 4  
VOLUME LXXIV  
DECEMBER 1964

# THE Instructor



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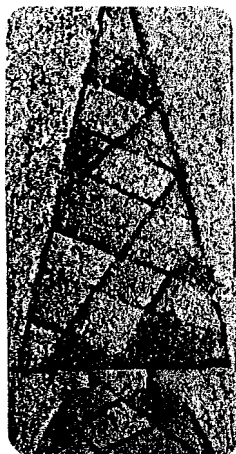
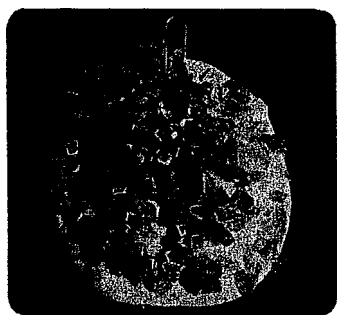
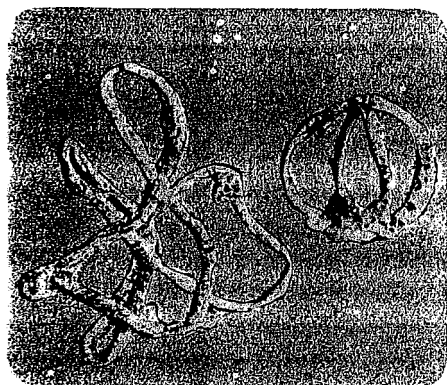
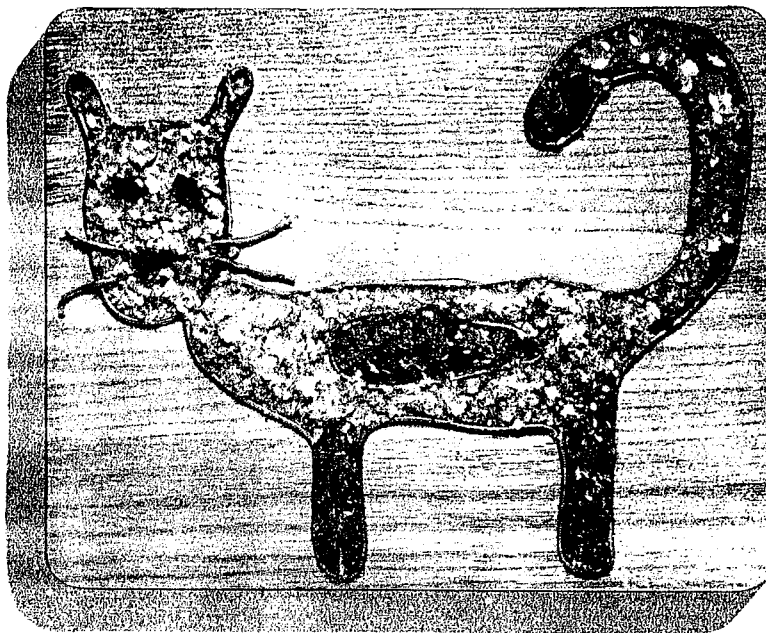
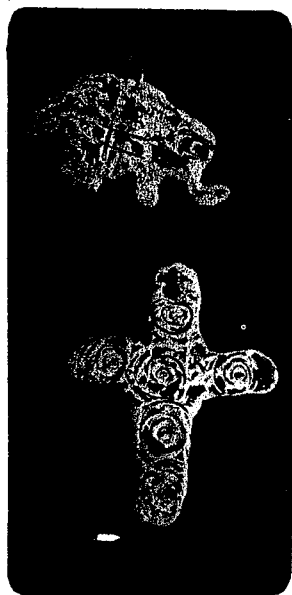
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Published monthly except July and August by  
**F. A. OWEN PUBLISHING COMPANY**  
Instructor Park, Danville, N.Y., U.S.A.

**INSTRUCTOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICE**, Danville, N.Y. 14437, Elizabeth F. Noon, Director.  
**ADVERTISING OFFICES:** Chicago: R. C. Gilroy, 75 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60601.  
New York: John E. Fritts, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10020. Home Office:  
Daniel T. McCormick, Danville, N.Y. 14437. Pacific Coast Office: James March & Assoc.,  
Halliburton Bldg., Los Angeles, Calif. 90017, 115 New Montgomery St., San Francisco,  
Calif. 94105. Intermountain Office: Simpson-Reilly, Ltd., 333 W. Colfax Ave., Denver,  
Colo. 80204. Member Audit Bureau of Circulations.

**SUBSCRIPTION PRICE**, in United States and possessions, and Canada (U.S. currency) \$6.00  
a year; in other countries \$7.00 a year. A request for change of address must reach us by  
the 15th of the third month preceding issue with which it is to take effect (15th of  
December for March issue, etc.). Give both old and new addresses. Address all  
communications to THE INSTRUCTOR, Danville, N.Y. 14437. Second-class postage  
paid at Danville, N.Y. Copyright © 1964, by F. A. Owen Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

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### TREE DECORATIONS

can be made by children in any grade. Begin by mixing asbestos cement and water, to the consistency of soft modeling clay. It can be flattened and cut into ornaments, or rolled and punched to form interesting objects. Insert tree hangers, and lay on wax paper to dry. Cut decorative lines on the forms as they dry.

Later they may be enhanced by tempera paint and glitters.

**GLASS MOSAICS** in the form of animal figures are drawn on pieces of plywood. Then glue on heavy, round, gold or black braid to accent the outline. Now carefully coat the inside area with white resin glue and apply glass gems.

**PLASTER PRETZELS** and other intriguing tree ornaments may be made easily, just by dragging pieces of yarn, string, or rickrack through gravy-thick plaster. Then place them on wax paper and turn and twist into exciting shapes. After they have dried, decorations of sparkling glass chips can be applied with glue.

**CHRISTMAS MADONNA** and other sym-

bolic figures are formed from scrap materials: a used photoflash bulb stuck in the end of a cone-shaped spool. A piece of cloth dipped into gravy-thick plaster is draped around the cone in a pleasing fashion. After drying, several coats of plaster are then applied to the form, each being allowed to dry thoroughly.

When the fabric has been covered, scrape out various areas to improve the shape.

**ROUND TREE MEDALLIONS** are "plaster cookies" piled high with glass gems. Plaster and water should be mixed to the consistency of thick gravy. Then it is spooned onto wax paper and allowed to dry. White resin glue is applied and glass gems sprinkled on freely.

**STONE-CHIP CARDS** are lots of fun to make and even a primary-ager can finish a lovely card in an art period. With wax crayons, the design is drawn directly on a card or cover of a folder. Then cement is applied to the design areas and filled in with stone chips.

**GLASSMAS TREES** (pictured on page 45) are for Mommy. Tree shapes are cut freehand from flattened clay, and a small doughnut of clay is smoothed on to hold a candle.

After the tree has become thoroughly dry, a few lines of green underglaze provide pine "needles," and a clear glaze is applied.

Now comes the part the children love—the ornaments! Bits of colored glass are arranged on their trees with loving care. Then into the kiln they go, and surprise! They melt to form round ornaments (a single-firing clay project).

For a candle (commercial ones may be used), heat paraffin with bits of red or green crayon in a tall coffee can set in a pan of water. Have each child dip a candlewick or doubled length of string on a paper clip, into the hot wax. Many dippings will be required, and you'll need to organize the children for this activity.