



SANTA AND HIS REINDEER, Frosty and family decorated this yard (above) at the top of North York Avenue for the holidays. In the grass outside the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center sat a basic manger scene (below) with Joseph, Mary and Jesus made from wood and painted white.



Lights, figures decorate yards all over town

Icicle, bubble, old fashioned, swag, multi-colored, blanket and rope — all kinds of Christmas lights hang around Oberlin for Christmas.

For the first few years, icicle lights came in white and were hung on the front of houses. This year, colored icicles appeared.

Bubble lights look like candles and are found on Christmas trees. Old-fashioned lights have large colored bulbs and mostly go outside. Swags lights look like a swag in white. Rope lights are fairly new, with little lights strung inside a tube that looks like a rope. They come in colors or just white.

All of these lights can be found on homes in Decatur County. After Thanksgiving, the colored lights started to go up. In some yards there is just a hint of light.

There might be an all-white lighted deer, a Santa or a manger scene. In others, there are lights hung on anything and everything that stood still long enough.

There are train sets lighted up, inflated Santas, snowmen and more.

There are train sets lighted up, inflated Santas, snowmen and more, lighted trees, deer, bells, angels and

candles. One yard features a water-skiing Santa behind a real boat.

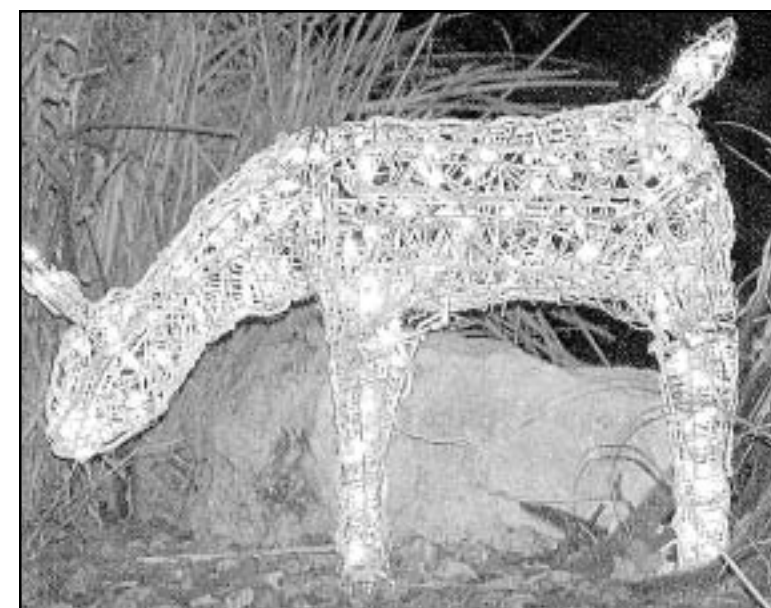
In many homes, trees have been decorated and placed in front of picture windows to add to the outside decorations.

As in years past, the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a light contest. This year they held separate contests for homes in Oberlin, Jennings and Norcatour.

In Oberlin, Bob and Lynn Boyd won \$75 for first, Kevin and Carol Brown \$50 for second and Scott and Sandy Zeigler \$25 for third. Winners get a credit on their Oberlin city electric bills.

In Norcatour, Virgil and Joyce Price won \$75 for first, Jim and Carolyn Plotts \$50 for second, and Tad and Rebecca Hartsough won \$25 for third. The prizes in Norcatour were in cash.

In Jennings, Stan and Ramona Shaw won \$75 for first, Eugene Mrstik and Dona Mrstik \$50 for second and Imogene Keenan \$25 for third. Winners get a credit on their Midwest Energy bills.



ON COMMERCIAL STREET, a large snowman (left) waved from a yard while a lighted train sat in front of him. A small reindeer (above) was only one of the decorations in Jennifer Auxier's front yard on East Ash.

