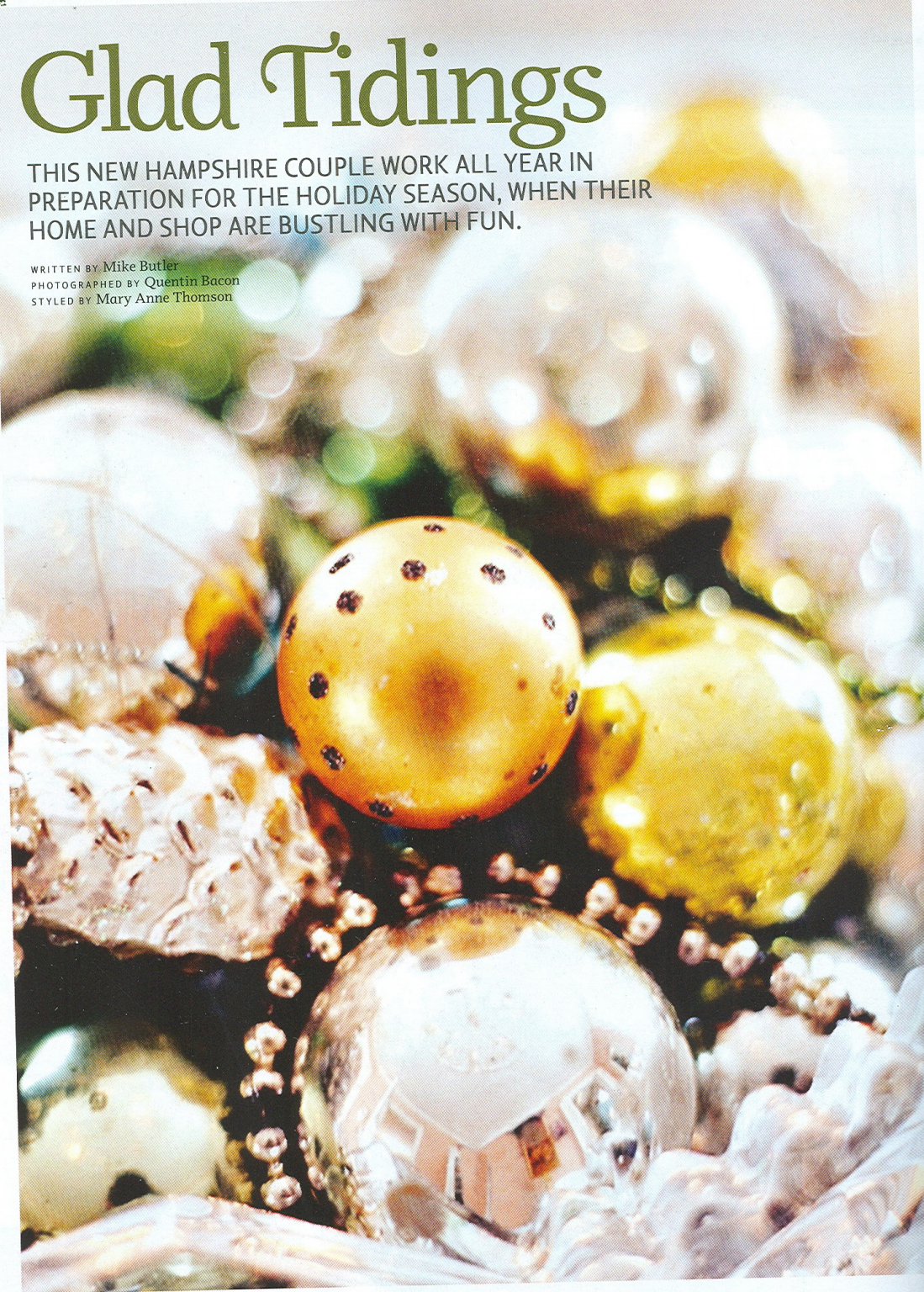


Glad Tidings

THIS NEW HAMPSHIRE COUPLE WORK ALL YEAR IN PREPARATION FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON, WHEN THEIR HOME AND SHOP ARE BUSTLING WITH FUN.

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THIS PHOTO Wreaths and fresh flowers, plus favorite Depression-era plates, a gift from Amalia Scontsas' mother, lend an infusion of green. **OPPOSITE** A crystal punch bowl serves up vintage ball ornaments and festive beads and garlands for a cheerful centerpiece.



THIS PHOTO The master bedroom continues the peaceful, easy feel found throughout the home. The reproduction bed is layered with white linen and satin, and a beautiful wreath. To highlight the Cape-style dormer, floor-to-ceiling fabric panels work like romantic portieres.

OPPOSITE Philip and Amalia combined four small upstairs bedrooms into two guest rooms and a master suite. They chose a dramatic pedestal sink for the master bath to be seen through the bedroom's French doors.



ONE SMART IDEA

Against frothy white fabrics and mellow woods, a few fresh greens and blooms spread abundant holiday joy.

ABOVE LEFT Paperwhite and other forced bulbs, potted in unusual containers such as this urn from the garden, bring a breath of fresh air to winter rooms. **LEFT** Philip and Amalia converted a breezeway between the garage and kitchen into a casual dining room. A late-1700s wall-hung cabinet showcases the couple's collection of white ironstone and echoes the lines of the curvy Queen Anne chairs. **OPPOSITE** A limestone-topped custom island provides a country contrast to the marble countertops used elsewhere in the kitchen. Original cabinets were given new doors that resemble the home's divided-light windows.



THE HOLIDAYS ARE THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR FOR PHILIP AND AMALIA SCONTSAS.

The New Hampshire shop owners enjoy it so much that even after getting their home design and fine jewelry store ready with its many cheery displays and decorating a holiday showhouse for charity, they're eager to deck the halls of their own two-story Cape Cod home. "Basically, we work all year for Christmas, and that extends to our home," Philip says. "The whole idea of getting ready for the big event—we just love it."

For most of the year, the couple's 2,000-square-foot home is an easygoing, romantic mix of white slipcovered furniture and antiques gathered over the past decade from flea markets, antiques shows and shops, and estate sales. For sparkle, glass-studded chandeliers, like diamond necklaces, adorn every room.

At the holidays, two fresh trees go up in the living room, and they're not so much trimmed as inundated with glass ornaments from the 1940s and '50s. French doors wear garland swags, and wreaths appear on cabinets, on mirrors, and even at the foot of the vintage brass bed in the master suite.

In the dining room, Amalia throws a custom cloth made of white linen and lace over the round table. She arranges place settings of heirloom and new china accented by gleaming stemware and flickering votives. In the center stands a vintage punch bowl from Philip's mother filled with more glass ornaments. The table awaits holiday brunches and suppers throughout the season, laden with traditional recipes Panama-born Amalia prepares.

On Christmas Eve, after the shop closes, the two go to a favorite bistro to enjoy a relaxed dinner and a well-deserved martini. Of course, for those in retail, it's back to the shop the next morning. "A lot of men come in looking for engagement rings," Philip says. "It's a very magical time."

BELOW, FROM LEFT Amalia and Philip Scontsas met while dancing and still enjoy spins around the floor. A lucky flea market find, an ornate mirror adds architectural charm to the house. Outside, more seasonal decorations welcome family and friends to the shingled, 1940s-era home. **OPPOSITE** It takes two trees to hold the hundreds of old and new ornaments in the Scontsases' collection. Fresh garlands and shiny papers add to the holiday cheer.

