IRISH LARK ON SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

Fun for All the Family.

BY MIGNON FLEMING.

This party has been planned to provide the greatest possible amount of fun with the least possible amount of work and expense. It will appeal to old and young alike for it is based on the world-old principle of competition which is the life of recreation as it is of trade.

The matter of invitations comes first.

Cut brown paper into the irregular shape of an Irish potato, making the eyes of the potato with a black pencil. The following note is printed in irregular letters on the back:

"I hope my Eyes may see you at (give address) (state time). Mrs. ——— is going to give a St. Patrick's Party and she wishes all us green vegetables to be there

"Yours truly,
"A SPUD."

Decorations will not make much impression upon a crowd of people who are having a bushel of fun and excitement but for the sake of having something distinctive, feature green, the good Irish color, in crepe-paper festoons, green lights, green shamrocks. Potatoes strung on heavy cord may be festooned here and there. Bare boughs of trees, covered with tiny bits of green tissue paper, will suggest the coming of spring. They might be stuck up in corners.

The entertainment, consisting as it will of contests, necessitates judges and a score-keeper and some person to announce what the contests are.

IRISH FAMILIES.

As guests arrive they are presented with some distinctive badge of green and told they belong to one of several families. This immediately divides the guests up into groups. There are the Gilhooleys, Murphies, O'Briens, Flanagans. (Avoid having more than four groups.) Each family has its own insignia: The Gilhooleys wear green bands of green crepe paper about their heads; the Murphies wear large green ruffs around their necks; the O'Briens have tall green hats; the Flanagans wear green bows under their chins. Each member of the family has a name such as Grandpa, Grandma, Pa, Ma, Baby, Pat, Mike, Nora. Care should be observed in seeing that each group has a grandpa, baby, pa, ma. The moment a guest is presented with a headband, hat, ruff or bow and told he is Grandpa Gilhooley or Baby Flanagan, he sets off to find the rest of his family. Thus the very moment the party begins, there is an air of fun and excitement that does away with all stiffness.

As soon as the families all are grouped together (and it would be wise to give each family a room or a certain corner in a room), tell them that the entire evening is to be given up to contests to see which is the smartest family.

The first stunt announced is that Baby Gilhooley (usually the biggest man in the party) and all the other "babies" in each group, will introduce everybody in the family to one another. The family finishing first wins five points. This will result in much laughter and fun.

Next comes ten points for the handsomest group. They are each given one minute to arrange themselves in a family group like a photograph.

Best Irish song by entire group, ten points. Each family may retire to another room so they may practice in private. They are allowed three minutes to practice. Sing only one verse and chorus.

Thus far, only group stunts have been given for the reason that it takes a certain amount of time to work up enthusiasm and give courage to different individuals to go into stunts by themselves.

Four people are now chosen from each group. Each one is to tell a part of an Irish anecdote, not an original one. This story is to last not more than one minute. Best story wins ten points. The entire group may retire to prepare for this stunt but the floor manager selects the ones who are to tell the story. Thus Mike, Grandma, Nora, Lizzie, from each group must do it. By thus designating the players, everybody gets a chance to perform before the evening is over. They tell the story thus: Mike says, "The other day Pat was walking down the street . . . ." Grandma immediately continues, "He saw a man carrying a hod of mortar." It is taken thus from one to the other till the entire story is told.

Best Irish jig, ten points. One person from each group.

SUITABLE RACES.

A Potato Race: Choose a man and a woman from each group. Give each pair a potato and a paring knife. The man takes the knife and the woman, the potato. Each puts the left hand behind the back so it can not be used. At a given signal all four couples begin to pare the potato, the woman turning it about while the man peels it. The couple getting the entire potato peeled first wins ten points.

Shamrock Race: Choose four people from each group and have them line up, facing the goal, one behind the other. This makes four lines of four players each. Each of the first three persons is given a leaf of a shamrock and a pin; the fourth player gets the stem of a shamrock. At a given signal the leaders of the four lines run forward to a sheet placed on the wall ahead of them. They pin their shamrock leaf to the sheet and run back to tag the next player. This tagging releases the next player who runs forward with his shamrock and tries to pin it so that it will begin to make the entire shamrock. He, in turn, tags the next player who comes up with the third shamrock and pins it on. The last when tagged, runs forward and attaches the stem. The side getting the most perfect shamrock in the shortest time, wins ten points.

Bubble Race: Choose two players from each group. Four clay pipes are distributed, together with a cup of green soapsuds. Each one of the two players is given one minute to blow soap bubbles. For every one thrown on the floor, five points is scored. As the four groups are competing all at once, much care must be observed in watching the bubbles. The soap bubbles will be made much tougher by putting glycerine in the water.

Dinner Pail Race: Take a ten-pound lard pail and fasten it securely to a heavy board so it will not tip over. This may be done by nailing the bottom of the pail to the board. Choose three players from each group. Arm them with four small potatoes each. Each player is given one chance to try to get all four in the pail. For every potato thrown in the pail, five points are scored. In this game the players in each group must follow one another.

Irish Race: Pin a large sheet of tar paper to the wall. A blackboard is better. Choose seven players from each group. Line them up one behind the other, in four groups. Arm the leader with a piece of chalk. At a given signal, each player in turn is to run forward and write one of the seven words, "There's nothing too good for the Irish." When the first player has written "there's," he runs back and gives his chalk to the next player who runs forward and writes "nothing" and so on till the last word is written. The group getting the entire sentence written first wins fifteen points.

The concluding stunt is ten points offered for the best Irish yell given by the entire group. They may retire into an adjacent room to practice for two minutes.

Now comes the final announcement of the score (it should be announced right along during the contests to keep up excitement) and the presentation of the prize. The prize may be a handsome potato tied with a ribbon or it may be a toy pig which is hollow inside such as may be obtained in a ten-cent store. This pig is filled with small candies.

Refreshments are now served to the different "family groups" who will enjoy talking over the contests as they eat. By the time such an evening of activity is over, the guests will be good and hungry. If the hostess is capable of making a delicious Irish stew, nothing is better, providing it is served piping hot and in a paper cup or a timbale shell so it will not look mussy. A stuffed Irish potato or scalloped potatoes, sprinkled with parsley, would be delicious served with this. Hot rolls made into the three leaves of a shamrock with a stem of green geranium and sprinkled with green sugar would be a fitting complement to the stew and potatoes. The green color scheme is carried out wtih pickles and green tea.

If the evening is warm and the guests thirsty, a St. Patrick's Punch could be served, consisting of lemon, grape fruit and pineapple.

Just before departing, it would be a most delicate attention if the Gilhooleys would give a parting cheer for the Murphys, the Murphys for the Gilhooleys and the other groups, the same.

This St. Patrick's party could easily be adapted to a community, the only difference being that the groups competing would be larger.

Mangels for Feed.

The Experimental Union results for 1926 show that mangel types differ but little in productive capacity. The eight year average yield as represented by an outstanding variety of each type gave the following: Sutton's Mammoth Long Red 29.7 tons per acre, Yellow Leviathan (O.A.C. No. 2) 29 tons per acre, Keith's Prize Taker 28.2 tons. These varieties represent very fairly a different type of mangel, first the long, second the intermediate and third the globe.

A co-operative experiment was conducted this year for the first time in thinning mangels at different distances apart in the rows. The yields from the different thinnings follow: Mangels thinned 8 inches apart, 17.5 tons per acre; mangels thinned 4 inches apart, 17.4 tons, mangels thinned 12 inches apart, 16.8 tons.

Sugar Mangels: This class of roots which is also known as stock feeding sugar beets is intermediate between the mangel and true sugar beet. It has been grown considerably of recent years as a feed for farm stock, especially dairy cattle. In the average of 12 years' results in which there were 62 good reports were received, the variety Rennie's Tankard Cream gave an average yield of 25.2 tons per acre, and Bruce's Giant White Feeding an average of 25.3 tons per acre.

The Useful Snow Man.

Clumsy man
Made of snow,
What are you good for
We'd lie to know.

What are you good for?
Tell us that,
Man of snow
With an old straw hat.

It had taken John and Mary quite a time to make the snow man, for they had made up their minds when they began that this should be no ordinary snow man, but a good big one. When they made his legs, they rolled them back and forth in the snow until they were very large, strong legs. Then they stood his legs side by side, and they rolled a snowball till it was as large as they could lift, and when they had put two snow arms on that large snowball and lifted it up onto the snow legs, the snow man was already taller than John or Mary though he had no head.

When they had rolled another snowball to make a head for the snow man, it was quite a question how they were going to put the head on him. And the only way they could put his head on him was to get the step ladder from the barn. When he was finished he was a fine snow man. He was almost twice as tall as Mary or John.

Our snow-man's eyes
Are black as coal.
For lumps of coal
Are they.
He has a snowball
For a nose
Until it melts
Away.
He wears a hat
That used to be
Our father's
Summer hat.
But what's he good for
Now he's made?
How can you
Answer that?

"That's a great snow man all right," said John. "But I wish we could make him do something."

"I've got an idea," said Mary. "Do you suppose he could hold a basket?"

"If it wasn't very heavy," said John. "But what would a snow man be holding a basket for?"

"There's an old basket in the barn that might be just the thing," said Mary. "We can hang it on his arm, and put bread crumbs in it, and then he'll stand here all day feeding the birds."

"I see what you mean," said John. "You go get the basket, and I'll go ask cook for a lot of bread crumbs."

So Mary got the basket, and John got the crumbs. It was a flat sort of basket, and they scattered the crumbs all over the bottom, and hung the basket on the snow man's arm.

"He looks as if he were going to market," said John. "Do you suppose the birds will find him?"

"We'll have to wait and see," said Mary, "but I guess they will."

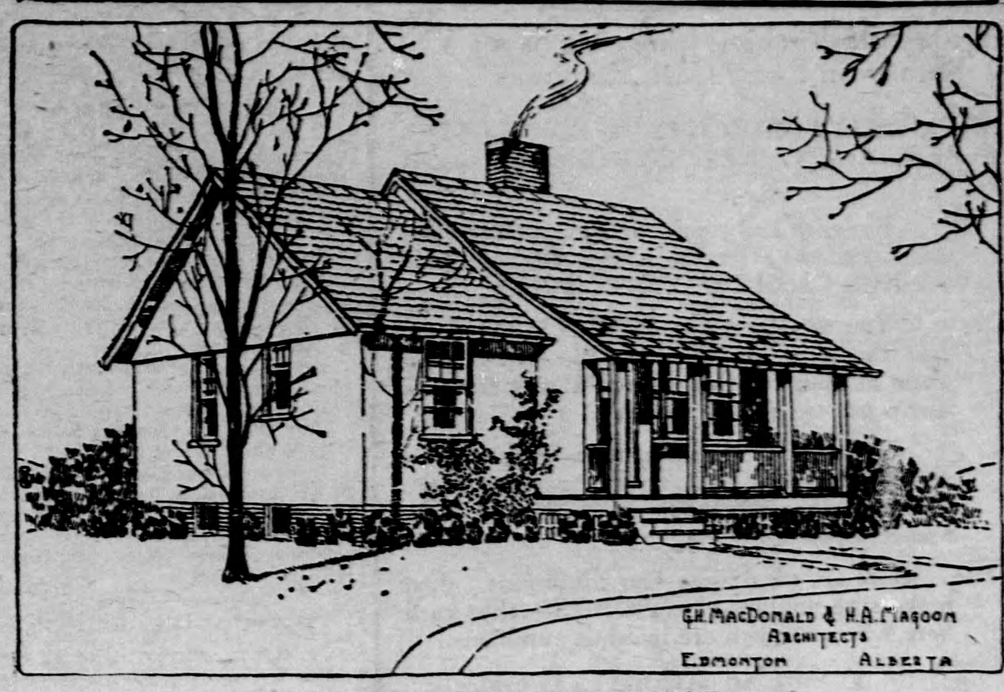
And half an hour later when they looked out of the window the snow man was feeding quite a flock of birds.

Grit from the First.

After five or six years of experience I have found the following a great success in starting young chickens: I leave them on the nest until they are from thirty-six to forty-eight hours old. The first two or three days I feed one pint finely ground corn meal, one-half pint second-grade flour, one-half pint good white sand—the sort used in glass factories—all mixed with sweet milk.

I have also tried the brown sand used for making concrete, but this is not as good.—I. S. B.

Many farm boys are efficient. A calf had broken one of its hind legs. A couple of boys on the farm put some splints on that calf's leg, bound it up and when it got well the calf had quite a leg. Our hats are off to boys like that.



A YEAR ROUND HOUSE

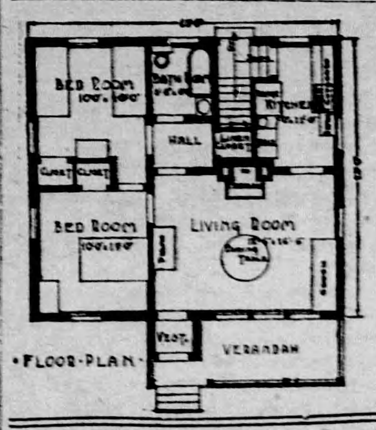
By G. H. MacDonald & H. G. Magoon, Architects.

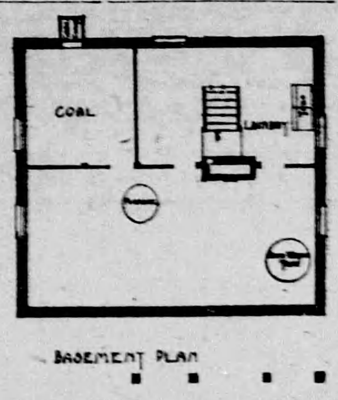
Here is an example of the type of house which with the snow of winter or the foliage of summer for its setting, looks equally attractive and comfortable. It is a sensible little house, the exterior charm of which depends on simplicity and good proportions, aided by proper planting and a small area of good turf.

The plan is commendable for its compact arrangement to include three closets, two bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom, together with practically all the articles which tend to make housework easy, and recreation enjoyable, upon one floor size 28 feet by 25 feet. Being almost a perfect square it would be an easy home to keep warm and cosy during the severest weather.

The rear bedroom, linen closet, and bathroom open from an inner hall which is entered through the living room, while the front bedroom may be reached directly from the living room or through the adjoining bedroom.

The kitchen is replete with those devices which make cooking a pleasure of not too long duration, and contains a range with hot water boiler, table, refrigerator, sink and cupboard. The rear entrance is combined with stairs to basement, making access to laundry either from drying yard or kitchen equally convenient.





It will be noted that the living room, in common with every other room in the house, has windows on two sides and is thus assured of good lighting and cross ventilation. A cheery sight indeed, would meet the homecomer as he entered from the vestibule and was greeted by the fireplace blazing out warmth and cheer; and meals, too, would be taken in its flickering light.

Well lighted and roomy, the basement extends under the whole house, and is divided into a laundry which is equipped with tubs, coal bin, and a large space for heating and general storage purposes. The basement walls are concrete below the grade and stucco above, while from the ground floor up the walls are stucco on frame. An alternative which would give a delightful effect would be to use shingles above the window heads.

Care has been taken to have the fireplace, range, and furnace flues run up together and so form a substantial looking chimney, an arrangement having the additional advantage of a saving in cost.

The cost of this home may be expected to approximate $4,000.

Readers desiring further information regarding the plans and specifications of this house should communicate with the architects direct. Address Messrs. G. H. MacDonald & H. A. Magoon, Tegler Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Electricity Eases Plowing.

By putting in the plowshare a charge of negative electricity experimenters at the Rothamsted Station, England, have found that the plow runs through the soil much easier. The share draws to itself a film of water from the soil even under the ground. Thus constantly lubricated, its resistance is decreased. The current for charging the plowshare may be derived from a dynamo driven by the tractor that pulls the plow.—Andrew H. Berding, England.

I have a large maple tree on my lawn with holes in it where limbs have been cut off. These holes were full of brown-tailed caterpillars and eggs. The woodpecker got to work and cleaned them out as clean as a new board.—F. W.

MECCA FOR CHAMPIONS

The above photograph was taken at the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, and shows, at the right, Lella Brooks of Toronto, holder of practically all Canadian women's speed records and many world's records. At the left is Isabel McCullough, another prominent Toronto speed skater. Between these two young ladies is another champion, a champion of the northern trails and none other than Mountie, the lead dog of the Chateau Frontenac dog team. Mountie has a long record of service with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the north, and always wins the hearts of the guests at the Chateau Frontenac.

Surnames and Their Origin

WOLF

Variations—Wolff, Guelph, Wolfington.
Racial Origin—Teutonic.
Source—A clan name.

There are so many different channels through which the family names in the Wolf group may have come down to us that it is impossible to list the racial origin as anything more definite than Teutonic, or the source as anything more definite than a clan name.

Of course it all traces back ultimately to the name of the animal. The ancient Germans and Anglo-Saxons, however, had given names based upon this animal name. They also had semi-clan or tribal names, based either upon the name of the animal or upon the given name of some chieftain who was named after the animal.

These ancient Teutonic tribal names, comparatively few of which have come down to us as family names, generally bore the termination "ing" as signifying clan. Hence we get the form Wolfington as the ancient fortress of the "Wolfings" in England.

The double "f" in Wolff indicates a German origin of the name, whereas the single "f" might be either of pure English extracted or an Anglicized version of the German name. The form Guelph is of continental Teutonic development, showing the influence of the same linguistic tendency which made the word "guerre" out of the same root from which the English language has developed "war," for the French word is of Teutonic origin.

ASPLIN.

Variation—Aspland.
Racial Origin—English.
Source—A given name.

You might guess interminably at the origin of this family name without ever hitting it, if you confined yourself to mere guessing, even though you had a full knowledge of the linguistic tendencies of speech through the ages.

You might even guess unsuccessfully after you had been assured that the family name is the development of a given name.

It is only by tracing the name back through the records of different centuries and through the changes of spelling through which it has gone during those centuries that you get back to the original.

Asplin is simply "Absalom."

Transposition of letters is met with frequently in the development of the English language; as witness the change of "thorpe" into "throp," "hros" into "horse," etc.

Thus the Bible name of Absalom, popular, like most Bible names, in the Middle Ages, became "Apsolon" on the tongues of the medieval English, and then variously "Aspelon," "Apspelond," "Aspelond," "Aspelan" and finally Asplin and Aspland.

Willows for Ditches.

Did you ever try planting willows along some of those ditches that take so much of your field? This otherwise worthless ground may be used to grow part of your supply of wood.

In the spring—sometime in April is all right—take your ax and cut some willow poles or sticks. Cut them three or four feet long and an inch or two in diameter. Take these to the ditch and wherever you think a tree is needed drive one of these willows down into the ground, leaving about a foot above the ground. Slant the top upstream so that running water will tend to straighten it.

It is a good plan to place a row of these across the ditch at different places. Almost all of these will grow and in a few years you will have a row of trees. The roots will prevent the ditch from washing any deeper, while the trunk and top will help to catch the trash and to fill up the ditch. They cannot be used in a pasture where cattle can destroy them.—G. G. L.

Overdone.

A sad-looking woman of mature years appeared in the streets pushing a baby carriage in which a fine, healthy-looking infant was howling lustily. A friend approached.

"Why, Mrs. Lufkins," she ejaculated, "what a darling baby. But you have no children. Whose is it?"

"You're wrong, my dear," replied the sad-faced one. "This is my husband; he went too far with the gland cure."

It is said that the porcupine is the slowest and most stupid animal in the woods.