Home Chats

By

MARIE ANN BEST

Asparagus Time

It wasn't so very long ago that asparagus was considered a luxury, but now nearly every gardener who boasts any kind of a garden has his little asparagus bed, from which such thick, juicy stalks spring as quickly as the mushroom.

The housekeeper is wise who uses seasonable vegetables when they are cheapest to bring down the high cost of living. They are always best when cheapest, too, because they are cheapest when they are the most plentiful. Of course, coming right from the garden to the table, they are their best and taste very different to the vegetables which have been standing in the air all day long.

One can prepare asparagus so many different ways that it can appear in some form each day throughout the season without monotony.

Cream of Asparagus

Here is a place where the tougher stalks can be used from which the tops have been removed. To make a delicious soup cut a bunch of asparagus stalks into one-inch pieces. Boil until tender and put through a sieve; add to it and the liquid that goes with it a quart of milk. Season with salt and pepper. Heat, then pour slowly into it two tablespoons of flour creamed with the same amount of butter, stirring constantly. Allow to come to boil and serve with croutons.

Asparagus and Peas

Cook canned peas and asparagus in separate saucepans, drain and use two cups of asparagus tips and the tender part of the stalks, cut in half-inch lengths, to this add one can of peas, a quarter cup thin cream and butter, pepper and salt.

Boiled Asparagus

Perhaps it is best served all by itself either with a white, rich sauce or a dressing of melted butter and seasoning after it is cooked tender in water. Never cook it longer than the required time to make it tender. Serve without breaking the stalks. A good way to cook it to avoid breaking the tips is to stand a bunch on end in a dish. Since the tips do not need much cooking fill the dish with water up to three-quarters of the way, and the steam will cook the tips. It should always be boiled in salted water. After it is carefully removed to a platter melt one tablespoon butter, to which add one cup bread crumbs. Stir over the fire until brown then cover asparagus on plate.

Asparagus With Eggs

Cut asparagus in 2-inch parts and boil in salted water till tender, drain, put in a casserole, sprinkle with melted butter, seasoning and add 3 well-beaten eggs, bake until brown in a hot oven.

TWILIGHT HOUR STORY

Chapter 22

About Wee Chicks and Other Little Friends

I'm sure you remember last week we named one of the little chicks. We called her Squatty, didn't we? Because she was so short and fat and had such funny short bill. Then, of course, we named Jimmie Chick a long time ago, didn't we?

Well, how about the other two? Since they had grown so much bigger they certainly did look very different for, do you know, one of the other two sisters left wasn't like Squatty one bit. She had a long neck and long legs and, instead of her beak being short like Squatty's, it was long and pointed. She was a little cross, too, and bossed all the others around. How would it be if we call her Bridget? She ate just as much, even more, sometimes than Squatty, who was so fat, but she just stayed thin. I wonder why that is, don't you? Are you fatter than your little sister? Or perhaps you are the thin kind. Well, anyway, we have only one chicky left, haven't we? We haven't said anything about it, but you know I wanted to leave the best till the last for Oh, she was a lovely chicken. She wasn't too fat or too thin. She was just right, and she had such a pretty head and then she had especially beautiful white feathers. I don't know where she got all that beauty, but there she was. Mamma Lady loved to show her off and now she picked her up and said to Billy, "Isn't she a beauty? and son, besides being so beautiful her body is made just right, so she will lay far more eggs than Bridget or Squatty, perhaps more than both of them put together. How is that for a chicken. In fact, Billy, she is such a fine chicken I believe we will show her too, along with Jimmie, at the show when she grows a little bigger."

Billy looked at her with admiring eyes, then said, "Well, we will need to have a pretty nice name for her. I tell you, Mammy, she's so white let us call her "Lily, white as a lily."

"That is a fine name, I'm sure she'll be a good chick with a name like that," smiled Mamma. "But now I'm sure I know a little boy who is very, very sleepy, for he has done so much to-day. How about your good old bed that has been wondering where you have been for such a long time?"

Sonnet for a Day Wasted Indoors

Lord, I have missed so many things
today;
The birds' first splendid song across
the dawn
Reaching to greet Thy rose-flushed
joyous dawn
That crept soft-footed from night's
fading grey;
I did not see the silver sunbeams
play
On rippled water and on wind-
swayed lawn,
Nor yet the tree-spun shadows,
quietly drawn
Where dew-hung, wildflower-patterned carpets lay;
I did not see the sure returning tide
Stretch out to clutch again the
pebbled sand
With those swift waves of jade
which one by one
Came tumbling shorewards; and I
missed the wide
Cloud-stippled sky above the day-
green land.
And, Lord, I lost the setting of
the sun.

—A. R. Ubsdell, in the Fortnightly Review.

French Births Exceed 1930 Deaths by 100,000

Paris.—There were 100,000 more births than deaths in France during 1930, government statistics published recently revealed. There were 342,698 marriages in 1930, against 333,841 in 1929, but there were 20,400 divorces last year, against 19,353 the year before.

The Paris press hailed the margin of births over deaths as indication that a long period of a declining French birth rate was past.

"I want a man with a higher calling."

"Then you'd better marry a chimney sweep."

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNABELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern.

Perhaps you'd like a youthful capelet one sees on so many of the smart frocks these days.

However be certain you choose the right capelet. This one is a beauty and suited to miss or matron. Fastening at the front as it does with a button, gives it a sportive air. Its scalloped bound edge furnishes a lovely theme for contrast. The buttoned belt and circular hem smartly agree with the scalloped cape. The hipline also favors scallops to narrow its breadth.

The frock was originally carried out in pale blue eyelet batiste with blue binding.

Style No. 3050 may be had in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 years, 36 and 38 inches bust.

Peach-pink linen with brown binding, yellow shantung print with plain yellow, pale blue flat washable silk crepe with pale pink, red and white batiste print and green pique print with white pique collar and binding are charming suggestions.

Size 16 requires 3⅜ yards 35-inch or 39-inch.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

Verities

Don't cry over spilt milk; call the cat.

Gossip is the mother-in-law of invention.

Never hit a man when he's got you down.

The unfairness of the fair sex is proverbial.

The redeeming feature of a pawnshop is the ticket.

Women with the most cheek don't always do the most blushing.

Character is what you are; reputation is what people think you are.

Valor

God of men who fail
And face the foe of fear,
Help each and everyone
Bravely to persevere.

God of men who trust
When clouds of gloom obscure,
Help each and everyone
Bravely to endure.

—Grenville Kleiser.

Sunday School Lesson

May 31. Lesson IX—Jesus in Gethsemane—Luke 22: 39-54. Golden Text—Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. —Luke 22: 42.

ANALYSIS.

I. The Agony on the Mount of Olives, 22: 39-46.

II. The Arrest, 22: 47-54.

I. The Agony on the Mount of Olives, 22: 39-46.

What is meant by saying that Jesus went, "as his custom was," to the Mount of Olives? It might be that he was wont to retreat thither for prayer and meditation, but more probably it was not safe for him to sleep in the city. Jesus did not refuse to die when the time came, but he refused to be assassinated before his hour. Whether he slept in the open air or with friends, perhaps at Bethany, is not quite certain.

The disciples are to pray that they enter not into "temptation." We are reminded of the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer. The word translated "temptation" "means rather "fiery trial," such a searching test as Peter underwent when accused of being a disciple, or as many Christians underwent in times of persecution. How do we know the words of Jesus' prayer? The disciples, apparently were asleep. Who, then, overheard the prayer of Jesus? The only possible person seems to be the young man of Mark 14: 51, who some have supposed to be Mark himself. This is interesting guess-work, but we cannot tell. The prayer itself is reminiscent of two other passages: First, the question, "Are ye able to drink of the cup that I drink?" Matt. 20: 22. Second, the petition in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done."

Why should the disciples fall asleep through "grief"? v. 45. Grief tends to keep people awake. No doubt the disciples may have been more or less aware of the storm that was about to burst over their heads, but it looks as if "from grief" was put in by the Evangelist as some sort of excuse. It is, on the whole, more likely that the disciples, assuming that Jesus proposed to spend the night on the Mount of Olives and to sleep there himself, had simply laid down in the ordinary way, and fallen asleep. What was it that caused the great distress of Jesus? We are very much out of our depth when we attempt to define the thoughts and feelings of Jesus at this time.

We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains he had to bear.

We can but indicate some of the elements which may have entered into his desperate distress. No doubt Jesus, who was but some thirty years old, may have shared man's natural shrinking from death, and the death to which he must look forward was one peculiarly painful and normally very slow. But others before and since have faced a painful death bravely and quietly, and we may be sure that this alone does not account for Jesus' "Agony." It may well have come to Jesus with overwhelming horror that he, a Jew, the lover of his people, was to be executed by the Romans. Better far, perhaps, that he might die like the prophets at the hands of his own people. Moreover, death by crucifixion, the "hanging upon a tree," seemed to bring with it the curse of the Law, and therefore of God, the Divine Author of the Law. Could he really be the Son of God, if God allowed this to befall him? Again, if he were handed over to the Romans, it would mean that he had failed. His religious revolution, symbolized by the cleansing of the Temple, would have collapsed, and he was to be done to death as another political fanatic, misunderstood, contemptuously removed.

In the dark, dark hour of Gethsemane we may see "desperate tides of the whole world's anguish" (and the whole world's sin "forced through the channels of a single heart." It was usual for men to linger two or three days upon the Cross. It has been said that Jesus died quickly because his heart was broken. Finally, it must be remembered that Jesus walked by faith, as we also are called to do. His arrest and death, just when he seemed to be succeeding, must have been utterly baffling to faith. It is easy for us after the event to see how, through his death, he triumphed, but we must not assume that this was easy for him to see. Jesus is set before us, in the epistle to the Hebrews, as the great example of faith; the leader of the faithful. His faith in God was tested to the uttermost, as alone he faced absolute disaster. We dare not think what it would have meant for the world if his faith had failed, but it held firm.

II. The Arrest, 22: 47-54.

Luke says that chief priests and elders came to arrest Jesus, but they would surely have recognized him, and there would have been no need for the traitor's kiss. The arrest was more probably effected, as Mark indicates, by servants. Exactly what happened is not clear. There seems to have been some sort of a scuffle, but Jesus did not attempt to escape arrest. It is rather surprising to find one at least of the disciples armed, but Jesus knew that "two swords" would be of no avail, once Pilate was invoked.

Wind-Whipping By Plane Believed Good For Alfalfa

The wind whipping given an alfalfa field in full bloom by an airplane flying low over it is thought to have resulted in an increased yield of 140 pounds of alfalfa seed an acre. This test was conducted on the farm of Jay Larkin, Cook County, Oregon.

In July when the alfalfa being left for seed was in full bloom the county agent arranged with Charles E. Hahn and Jonas Bass to demonstrate the effectiveness of the airplane propeller blast in tripping the alfalfa blossoms. A strip forty feet wide the entire length of the field was selected. The county agent and a group of farmers counted blossoms tripped and not tripped on marked areas previous to the airplane treatment. The aiplane was then flown over the strip at a low elevation almost clipping the top of the alfalfa with the landing gear. The blossoms were again counted and it was found that 30 per cent additional blooms were tripped as a result of the airblast from the ship.

Yields at harvest time proved that the strip thus treated yielded 200 pounds of seed an acre in comparison with the yield from the untreated portion of the field of only 60 pounds an acre.

New Combinations

Vegetable meals are becoming more and more popular. Although they have the drawback of demanding that several vegetables be cooked individually and served simultaneously, they can be managed, and there are many combinations besides the mound-of-spinach, mound-of-carrots and mound-of-mashed potatoes one.

These plates offer more variety and are but little more trouble to prepare.

1. Cauliflower with Hollandaise sauce, string beans, baked potatoes, buttered beets.

2. Fresh broiled mushrooms on toast, broccoli, creamed potatoes, grilled tomatoes.

3. Baked green pepper stuffed with tomato and rice, beets, creamed celery, green peas.

4. Spinach with cheese sauce, buttered onions, fried egg-plant slices, celery hearts.

"What makes Smith so superior in manner?"

"He has bought a new encyclopedia and can't help thinking about how wise he will be when he has read some of it."

America Inhabited Long Ages Ago

Early Man in Arizona Lived in Pleistocene Age — New Evidence

Cleveland, O.—Discovery in Arizona of a "butcher shop" more than 20,000 years old was reported at the recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science by Dr. Harold J. Cook, of the Cook Museum of Natural History, Agate, Nebraska.

Bones of the huge elephant-like mammoth that had been hacked with flint knives by the ancient butchers, and some of the knives themselves, have been found in Yuma County, Arizona, by Perry and Harold Anderson, Dr. Cook said. The knives buried with the bones show men must have lived there at the same time as the mammoths, Dr. Cook believes. Some of the mammoth bones showed evidence of having been hacked while still fresh, or tough and green. A bison bone evidently used in flaking off particles of flint in making the stone knives also was discovered.

"Some of the bison and mammoth bones found here also appear to have been gnawed," Dr. Cook said.

IN PLEISTOCENE AGE.

The dry Arizona plateau where the bones and knives were discovered was a well watered flood plain when the ancient butcher shop was in operation, Dr. Cook explained. Streams were flowing across it from the mountains toward the east. All evidence indicates the flood plain existed in the pleistocene age, which extended from about 1,000,000 years ago to within 20,000 years of the present. There is no probability that the flood basin is more recent than that, he declared.

The flint knives were similar to those found at Colorado, Texas and Torrington, Wyoming. They are well made indicating their makers were comparatively far advanced toward civilization.

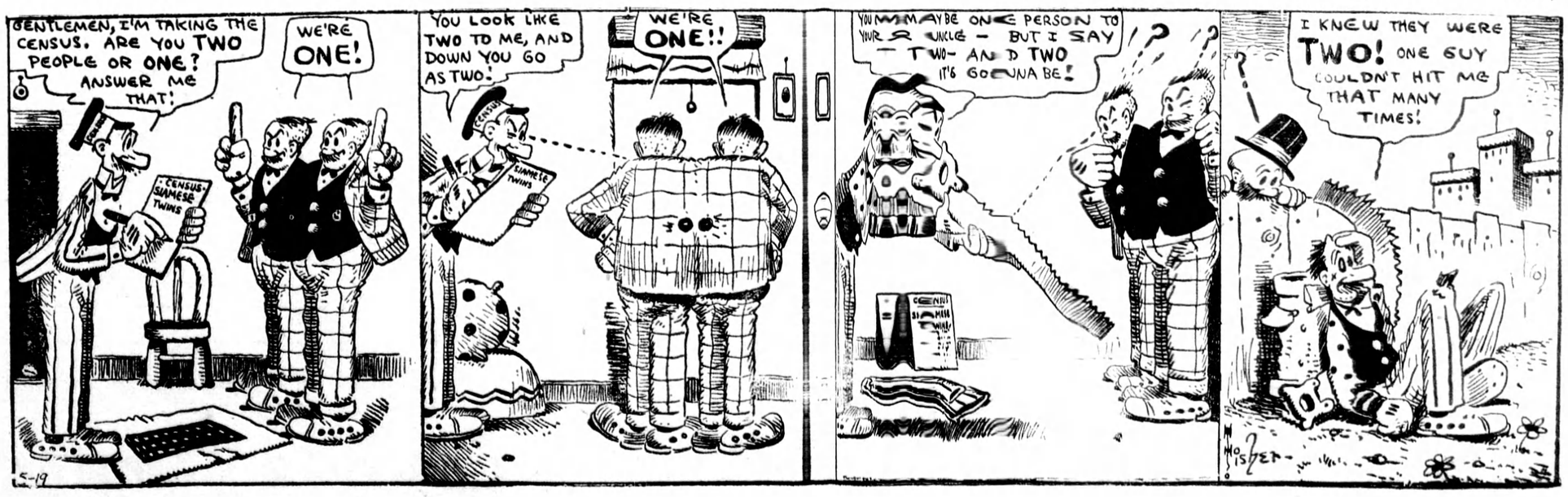
"The constantly increasing evidence of this character makes it appear that early man not only existed at a much earlier date in America than has been, until recently commonly believed, but that he had reached a relatively high state of advancement, at least in certain directions, in pleistocene time in this country," Dr. Cook said.

Organ Industry Grows

The great number of motion picture theatres that have sprung up in Germany have furnished a welcome extension of one of the country's industries, though but a comparatively small one—that of organ building. The yearly output is about 400, almost double the number of pre-war time, but the greater part of these instruments are commissioned for the cinemas, writes the Berlin correspondent of "The Christian Science Monitor." An average-sized church organ takes four to five months to build while one for the picture theatre takes half that time. Although many organ building firms have amalgamated with large industrial concerns of late years, a goodly number of smaller firms have remained independent, the reason being that, while in the manufacture of the instrument and the tuner, this is not the case in the organ industry. The mechanism of an organ is so complicated and delicate that only one who has thoroughly learned the construction is able to tune that instrument.

Britain and India

Calcutta Englishman: A huge concession was made in 1917 on certain conditions. Since that date Great Britain has gone on giving one concession after another, although the original conditions were never observed by Indian politicians, and as time has passed have been totally jettisoned. Had the abandonment of the conditions laid down in the preamble of the Government of India Act been followed by political peace and prosperity, there would have been much to say in favor of abandonment, but the state of India during the last ten years and the alluring prospect of a "civil war for a little time" held out by Mr. Gandhi suggest that perhaps a mistake has been made in making so many advances without security.

MUTT AND JEFF— —By BUD FISHER.

Where the Flying Fishes Play.