CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM

by Gwendoline P. Clarke

Friends, allow me to introduce to you the latest addition to Ginger Farm. She isn't very big as she is only two months old. She has honey-coloured hair, brown eyes, is very lively and weighs four pounds before feeding — probably five pounds afterwards. Since her entry into the family circle there has been no peace except when she is sleeping. During that blissful period we walk around on tip-toe and speak in hushed voices—at least we did until I decided she might just as well have her sleep in a box down in the furnace cellar. This disturber of the peace is a pure-bred cocker spaniel, no less, goes by the name of Gip, and has been with us now just over two weeks. This addition to the family was not my idea at all. It was just a brain-wave of Daughter's who has always wanted a cocker spaniel so she bought this little tike and sent her home for Mother to look after.

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After Gip arrived the fun began, especially when Mark, our half-grown black cat appeared on the scene. Gip was ready to meet all comers, man or beast, with a friendly greeting. Mark, of course, arched his back, spat, swore, and ran for cover every time Gip moved. Tippy, our collie, sniffed around the puppy and then his lip began to curl and he was ready to take her by the neck if we hadn't intervened. Such a time as I had for a couple of days, afraid to leave the three of them together and yet sure that to do so was the only way in which they would get accustomed to one another. And then, in no time at all, Gip and Mark were the best of friends. Now they spend every waking minute wrestling and chasing each other around, although at times they will stop and both take a feed fron. the same dish; and at night they sleep together in the same box.

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Partner says he has always wanted to see a wrestling bout at the Maple Leaf Gardens but now he has decided he doesn't need to because he can see all the wrestling he wants right here at home. The pup and the cat both sit up on their hind legs and then make a quick grab at each other and roll over and over. The cat goes for the pup's ears and the pup bites at the cat's tail. The cat works a tight clench by hooking her front paws around the pup's neck, making the pup paw the air with her hind legs until she eventually works herself free.

Tippy is still our big problem. Naturally she is frightfully jealous and it wasn't until today that she would allow the pup anywhere near her at all. Probably when they can both run out Tippy will find it lots of fun to have someone to run around with her.

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Gip is really a cute little thing. Already she will sit up and beg, and her bright little eyes are so intelligent you almost think she knows exactly what you are saying. Which is fortunate, because I have to say plenty, as she is very far from being housebroken. The first day she was here she more or less had the run of the house, but I soon found that wouldn't do at all —I don't need that much exercise! But yet I didn't want doors shut all over the house so I got a big piece of cardboard and fitted it across the sitting-room doorway. That keeps the puppy out—much to her annoyance — and yet still leaves room for air to circulate. It is also low enough for us to step over and Mark to jump over. Occasionally Mark, or the big dog, knocks down the barricade and there are a few frightened yelps and squeals but naturally none of them is really hurt.

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So that is the way of things at Ginger Farm right now — and amid all this menagerie I had Christmas dinner to get, the tree to decorate, last minute presents to wrap. And what that pup didn't do when the Christmas presents and wrappings were scattered around the house after Christmas isn't worth telling. As far as I can see there will be never a dull moment around here for some time to come. There is only one thing I don't like about the little tike, and that is her name—Gip. That was Daughter's choice—what I would like to call it is "Honey"—because that's her colour and that's her nature.

Baby Doll For Baby Gorilla—Santa was very good to little Sinbad, baby gorilla at the Lincoln Park Zoo. He brought a doll for Sinbad, who seems to be very happy with Santa's choice.

Famous Manuscript Comes Back Home

The original manuscript of Lewis Carroll's **Alice in Wonderland** has spent the past twenty years in the United States. And now, as a generous tribute to Britain by a group of anonymous Americans, it has been handed back to be kept in the British Museum. There, Mr. Luther Evans, Chief Librarian of Congress, presented the manuscript to the Archbishop of Canterbury who is the principal trustee.

Valentine Selsey decribes the ceremony as follows;

"It took place in the Conference Room where the trustees hold their week-to-week meetings—in fact, it happened just prior to one of those meetings, and, when it was over, we were hustled out of the room so that the meeting could proceed. I mention this because it is some indication of the informality of the event.

"Mr. Luther Evans did not want the publicity; nor did the museum; it was, nevertheless, a great occasion—the return of an old friend, and a great gesture by friends overseas. Mr. Evans was not acting solely for himself. Others had given him support—both financial and otherwise. We heard from Mr. Evans something of the history of this manuscript.

"Apparently, twenty years ago, it had come up for auction in England. At that time, the British Museum had tried to buy it for the nation, but the price had been too high, and an American buyer had carried the manuscript away. It went to America, and then, eighteen years later, it came on to the market again.

"Mr. Evans, who had just been appointed to his present job, decided to try and purchase the manuscript and to return it to England. He and his friends would have willingly bid up to £25,000, but the sale was clinched at £12,500. Why had they done this? Mr. Evans told us.

"It was a guesture of respect for Britain, and for the British way of life. And, secondly, the manuscript should never have left England anyway. This was a case of that cultural plunder which all civilized nations are fighting against, and to return the manuscript was something in the nature of cultural reparation.

"But what of the manuscript itself? It is a very small one, written in the tiny, neat handwriting of Lewis Carroll. The illustrations are by Lewis Carroll himself, and the photograph at the end of the manuscript is of the original Alice for whom the story was written. She was the daughter of a friend of Carroll, and the author dedicated the story as a 'Christmas gift to a dear child in memory of a summer day.'"

Island of Birds And Knitters

Fair Isle is a tiny piece of British territory lying between the Orkney and Shetland Islands. It is three and a half miles long, by half that width, and about eighty people live there, with three children attending school. The only contact with the outside world is by a ship that puts in once a week—when weather conditions allow. The Fair Islanders grow their own food and catch fish but their chief source of income comes from knitting. The wool from their sheep is sent away to be spun and when it comes back, the women dye it in bright colours with dyes which they make from lichens, flowers and berries and knit it into gaily patterned jumpers of intricate design.

The Fair Isle has another claim to fame. It is a stopping place for migrating birds, and millions pass through every year. Nearly three hundred different kinds have been seen there, both common and rare ones, and several birds on the British list have never been seen at any other point in the British Isles. Peter Scott, himself a well known ornithologist and son of the famous Scott of the Antarctic, says that when the birds migrate they fly along definite routes which they have used for hundreds of years. Fair Isle lies at an important point on one of the main migration routes, which goes north through Britain and then forks; one stream of birds goes on across the North Sea to Scandinavia and even further north, the other turns North-West to Greenland and Iceland, making Fair Isle into an avian sort of junction. Scott remarked on the extraordinary sense of direction that birds possess, but said that although much study has been devoted to the subject no scientific explanation of this annual miracle has been found. Fair Isle is an admirable place for studying birds because they are all gathered in a very small area, and can be much more easily seen.

Now Fair Isle has been bought by George Waterson, who intends to set up an observatory to study birds and bird migration in particular. Waterson visited the island regularly before the war. Last January he bought the island, and began to develop it as an observatory. He said that what they intend to do there is to keep a continuous record of migrating birds, and to trap and ring them so that the people who find them later alive or dead, in other parts of the world will have a guide to the limits of their migrating. They will also study those birds that live on Fair Isle all the year round, and there will be scientific research into the plant and insect life and history of the island, so that it should become a valuable source of information on many aspects of natural history.

New — And All Of Them Useful

Pee-Wee Radio. New radio is only the size of a cigarette package and uses a hearing-aid device.

New Headlight. So that night drivers can see around a corner before making a turn this headlight, which fits into circle of the new Ford grille, is linked to the steering mechanism so that it swings around about one third further and faster than the wheels.

For Juicier Roasts. Meat skewers made of heat-conducting aluminum alloy. It is claimed that six of them inserted in a roast will cut cooking time and reduce shrinkage more than a fifth.

No Snag Fish Lure. Made with retractible hooks this fish lure is said to be tangle-proof. The hooks spring out from the plastic body only when tension is placed on the line.

Measuring Pencil. Mechanical pencil with a built-in measuring device. By rolling head of pencil over any flat or curved surface, user can read dimensions, up to 36 inches, along side of pencil.

For Icy Driving. This device pours grit in front of the rear wheels of automobiles. Grit container fits permanently in luggage compartment, and discharges through tubes hidden under fenders. Controlled by switch on steering post.

For Loose Joints. Small metal syringe squirts glue into loose furniture joints. Syringe is fitted with small drill to make hole for the glue.

Frosted Light. This newly developed frosted incandescent light blub gives even glow over entire surface, unlike present type which glow more brightly at bulb end. It will reduce glare from naked lamps.

For Even Suntan. A sun lamp which moves automatically over a 6-foot distance to provide uniform head-to-toe exposure, then shuts off automatically to avoid over-exposure.

HOW TO DO IT

By Tom Gregory

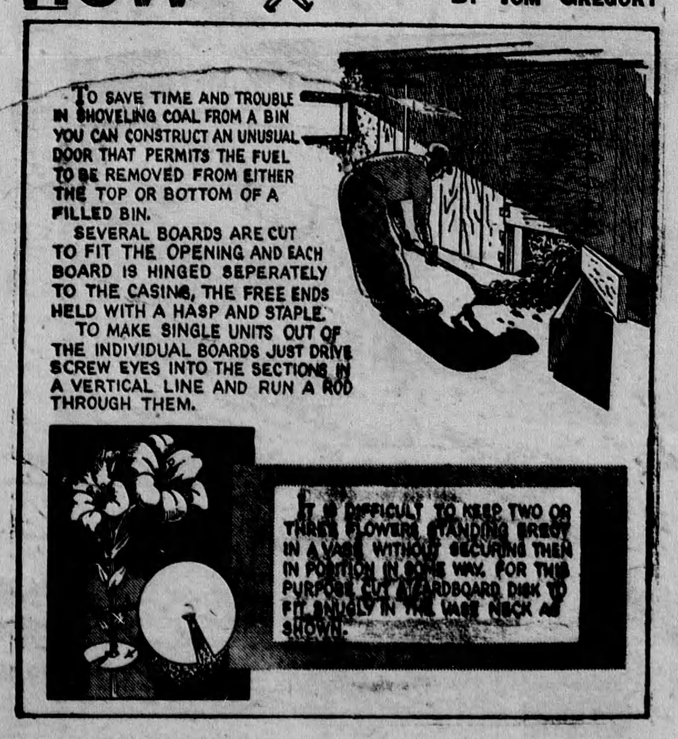

TABLE TALKS

by Jane Andrews.

During the holiday season most housewives just sort of let that old Food Budget "go hang". But now th . the festivities are over for another year a lot of us again have to keep a watchful eye on food costs, especially in homes where the growth of the family income never seems to keep step with that of the rising generation.

So I think that probably many of you would like to have this recipe for a White Cake—plain but good—which, besides being easy to make, has the advantage that no eggs are required in its preparation. It can be served as a plain cake while warm on the day it's baked, or with sauce of some sort when cold.

Plain White Cake

- 2 tablespoons lard or shortening
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 cups sifted flour
- Grated orange rind
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ cup evaporated milk
- ½ cup water.

METHOD — Cream sugar with shortening and grated orange rind. Add milk alternately with sifted dry ingredients, beating until just nicely mixed. Bake in moderate oven — 350 deg. — for about fifty minutes.

* * *

Recently I was talking to an old friend — one who went to school with me in a little Ontario town more years ago than either of us would be likely to confess, except on the witness stand. She asked if I remembered the PEPPERNUTS that some of the German-Canadian women used to hand out to us kids in the olden days — "PFEFFERNUSSE" was what they called them.

I certainly did remember them, and how good they tasted. More than that, I got hold of a recipe which I'm sure a lot of you may be glad to have, and to try. Here's how they're made.

Peppernuts

- 4 eggs
- 1 pound sugar
- 2 ounces citron
- 2 ounces almonds
- Grated rind of 1 lemon
- 4½ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- One-eighth teaspoon black pepper.

METHOD—Beat eggs well, and slowly add the sugar; mix and add the citron, almonds, lemon rind, flour and spices. Chill the dough, then roll about one-half inch thick and cut with small, round cutter — a small egg cup will do, or anything approximately one inch in diameter. Place on waxed paper and let stand overnight to dry. Next morning, before baking, turn each cookie upside down and put a drop of water or fruit juice on the moist spot in the bottom of the cookie. Bake at 350 degrees. The water or fruit juice tends to make the Peppernuts "pop". Let them ripen and soften for a while, as they'll be quite hard at first. Sounds like a bit of bother but I know you'll say they're worth it.

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Dr. Chase's NERVE FOOD

Honey and Hank

By Seeg