CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM

by Gwendoline P. Clarke

Sometimes things happen that are so utterly ill-timed one has to laugh. For instance, the other day I got word from a local mail-order office that an express parcel was there waiting for us. "Express?" I said in surprise. "I don't remember ordering anything."

"Didn't you order a sun-cot a few weeks ago?" the sales clerk answered. "And didn't they say they were sold out but would fill your order with their next shipment?"

A sun-cot? — Why, yes, so I did. . . . That was when the thermometer was hovering around the eighty mark. A sun-cot would have been welcome then. But now, with the daytime high not much over fifty, and a cold wind blowing . . . the sun-cot had arrived! So you see why I laughed. However, there is a chance it may get hot and humid again, so we accepted delivery of the sun-cot — and it does give one a sort of warm feeling just to look at it and visualize a time when something like that may be very welcome — if only one can find leisure to use it. Inclination will not be hard to find, but leisure — that's another story.

We have had several little showers during this last week, but still there is no growth — except in the grain fields. How the wheat and oats keep growing is a mystery. It won't be long before the wheat is out in head, but the hay and pasture — we are almost afraid to look at them. Partner finally turned the cows out but they will make short work of the grass in the field where they are pastured. As for the garden, everything is standing still — and I did want a good garden for the folk we are looking forward to as visitors to us this summer.

Speaking of visitors — we were not expecting any more for another two weeks so I was making use of the interval to fix up another bedroom especially as to work was the only way to keep warm — it seemed too warm with the furnace going, and too cold without it. So I was busy at this room. . . . I had got the worst part done and was painting the furniture, and of course the upstairs was anything but tidy — ecept for the little spare room. Then came Sunday morning — a taxi; dogs barking; doorbell ringing — and there on the doorstep was Partner's brother from Ottawa, come to stay until Monday. Later we had another gentleman visitor, ust for dinner. But I didn't mind — when a woman is alone men are much easier to have around. They gang up together and one doesn't have to worry — ust so long as there is enough food in the house to make a few good meals. My brother-in-law wasn't at all bothered because there were boxes, rugs and who knows what piled up in the hall belonging to the room that was in the process of being redecorated.

And by the way, in that same bedroom I was doing some more experimenting with roller painting; and this time I was making a much better job of it. Yes, in spite of the fact that I quit in the middle of things and went to Guelph. Walls will wait but invitations won't!

How would you like to know the ingredients of that water paint! Just let a few drops dry on the floor and even a scraper won't lift them. I think the mixture must surely be some kind of plaster of paris. I wonder what experience others have had in roller painting? The first time I smeared ceiling paint on the walls and wall paint on the ceiling by trying to get too close to the edges with the roller. Next time I did the edges first, using a brush for the purpose. But that wasn't too satisfactory either. So this time I just went ahead with the roller and finished up with a brush. That seemed to work better, although a bona fide painter told me that painters usually finish up as they go. But then I'm not a painter — so, being just an amateur I have to learn the hard way and do whichever brings the best results.

And here's a hint that may help someone — although it is more than likely you may have had the same bright idea yourself — but just in case you haven't. . . . For an inexpensive border buy a roll of paper with a flowered strip running through it. Cut out your strip — or strips — and there's your border. Stripes or conventional designs look very well too, but for plain painted walls a flowered border seems to give it colour and finsh. Another idea — if you like tinted ceiling take a quart of white paint and mix with it a pint of whatever colour you intend doing your walls. The result is rather pleasing — incidentally any accidental smears don't show up as plainly. Or am I the only one who gets paint where it shouldn't be,

'Bye for now . . . it's back to the paint-pots for me. And I think until I'm finished I'll put a quanantine notice on the door.

A Friendly Voice Now Silent — The late Jim Hunter, one of Canada's pioneer and best known newscasters, whose sudden death brought sorrow to countless listeners.

Answer to Crossword Puzzle

Five-Foot Shelf of a Wheeling, W. Va., collector includes this five-foot high glass vase which dwarfs little Linda Wright. It is more than 100 years old and is worth well over $10,000.

New Gadgets and Inventions You'll Probably Be Seeing

Electric Blanket

Automatic electric blanket soon to be manufactured in Canada is to have new control said to compensate for room temperature as well as for blanket control.

* * *

Plastic Candy Stick

New type of candy-on-stick is said to combine safety with added educational value through use of a flexible plastic handle. Sanitary handle is odorless, tasteless, without a point or any sharp edges. Handle will not pull out until all the candy has been eaten, claim makers.

* * *

Trims Hedge or Lawn

Electric hedge trimmer which can also be used for ground and overhead trimming. By use of a carrier and four-foot handle attachment, operator can trim edges of lawns and other places hard to get at with lawn mower. By changing position of handle, operator can raise unit in a perpendicular position for overhead trimming of evergreens, shrubbery, etc. Cutting head is said to be in balance with motor and handle and is adjustable and self-locking into three positions for forward, angular or side trimming, cite makers.

* * *

Low-Cost Sweeper

New lightweight plastic electric home sweeper is molded of new long-flow resinox. Will make electric cleaning available to limited budgets, according to maker. Expected to reach the retail market in midsummer.

* * *

Anti-Insect Light

Yellow ceramic "anti-insect" light bulb is said to be especially useful for outdoor purposes, such as roadside stands, gas stations, porches and summer camps. Ceramic finish is applied by coating a clear bulb with thin layer of colored glass and then baking the coating so that it is fused to the bulb. Coating said to be weather-resistant and will not chip. Available in 25, 60 and 100-watt sizes.

* * *

Aluminum Ladders

Complete line of lightweight aluminum ladders — extension, straight, orchard, window cleaner's and estimator's ladders —is offered in a wide range of sizes. Top of the ladders is rounded and they have inset rubber feet at the foot. Rungs are specially ribbed for safe footing; joints have no rivets, bolts or welds.

* * *

Pliers

New tool officially designed for radio, television, electrical, electronic and other precision work; is actually two tools in one. Has both a sharp tempered cutting edge and a "long nose" for probing into small places, such as miniature sockets. Over-all length is 6½ ins.; width tapers from 2 ins. on handle to 1-16 in. on extreme tip.

Car Wax

Liquid wax and cleaner is said to provide finish which will last six months or more on average car under normal conditions. Makers state one person can coat car with polish in one hour. Can also be used as household polish for silver, chromium, mirrors, etc. Contains detergents which eliminate need for washing or pre-cleaning surfaces. Protective finish is made from hard quality waxes and synthetic resins chemically treated to resist weathering, salt spray and repeated washings. Contains no alkalis, solvents or harsh abrasives to harm finishes, makers claim.

* * *

Food Saver Set

Set of three covered containers and tray, all of plastic, is offered as refrigerator space-saver. Containers are of lightweight, dorless and tasteless polyethylene; can be dropped and bent without breaking, makers claim. Will remain flexible at low temperatures. Each container is 4 ins. wide, 5 ins. long and 3 ins. deep, with tight-fitting lids which have recessed handles to allow other items to be stacked on top. Tray is molded of styrene plastic in various colors.

* * *

Dehydrated Bait

Dehydrated bait, packaged in odorless, water-resistant and non-absorbing polyethylene film is offered for luring catfish, bullheads, trout, sunfish and other fish that like blood. Bait puffs up and becomes larger upon striking water, as well as slowly bleeding into water to lure fish. Stays on hook even in fast water, maker states. A strong-smelling bait may be obtained by adding water and allowing to stand in a warm place for a few hours.

* * *

Work Gloves

Work gloves for industrial use made of fabric and coated with vinylite resins are said to be about 25 per cent. more wear-resistant. Resin coating permits handling of materials that are wet or dry, sharp or abrasive. Also offers protection against acids, caustics, oils, greases and many solvents that are destructive to ordinary work gloves.

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TABLE TALKS

by Jane Andrews.

New addition to the already-large and ever-growing list of books on cookery is the recently published "Secrets of Southern Cooking" by Ethel Farmer Hunter. It's published in New York and I'm not certain if it's available here in Canada as yet.

Besides many interesting recipes, Mrs. Hunter gives many valuable hints. One of these is along the lines of something I wrote a column or so ago. "Never 'cheat' on a recipe" the author cautions, "if you expect perfect results, use neither too little or too much."

Cake making rules must be respected. For uniform browning, Mrs. Hunter notes, layer cake pans should be so placed in the oven that they do not touch each other, nor the oven wals. A cake is baked, she explains, when it begins leaving the sides of the pan.

And here's a recipe borrowed from the book, which I think you will find both different and very enjoyable too. It's

Atlanta Bachelor's Spaghetti.

2 cans of spaghetti, with tomato and cheese sauce
1 large Bermuda onion, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
1 tablespoon butter
1 No. 2 can tomatoes
2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese
½ pound ground steak
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon red pepper
1 bay leaf
¼ pound snappy cheese, sliced

Method—Place spaghetti with tomato and cheese sauce in casserole. Slightly brown chopped onion and green pepper in butter. Add tomatoes, Parmesan cheese, ground steak and seasonings. Cook mixture for about 15 minutes. Remove bay leaf. Pour sauce over spaghetti and cover with slices of cheese. Bake in 350-degree oven for 45 to 60 minutes.

Among Ontario families of German descent a favorite dish has always been potato pancakes. They're quite different from the Norwegian kind, in which mashed cooked potatoes are used. In these you start with raw, grated spuds, which imparts a really distinctive potato taste.

Potato Pancakes

6 large raw potatoes, grated
3 eggs, slightly beaten
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ cup cream

Method—Vary the amount of flour, depending upon whether you like a thick or thin batter. Some add a little sugar, to make the cakes browner. Cook as you would any other sort of pancakes.

From 'way over in Nebraska comes this next one—a "quick bread" recipe which makes a 5½ by 10½ loaf with a flavor all its own. Any other kind of chopped nuts can replace the walnuts—or you can leave them out altogether of you prefer. Here's how you go about making

Orange and Honey Bread

Cream 2 tablespoons butter
Add .. 1 cup honey
2 eggs
Beat well.
Stir in.. ¾ cup orange juice
grated rind of 1 orange
Sift 2¾ cups sifted flour
2½ teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon soda
¾ teaspoon salt
Stir in dry ingredients
Add ¾ cup chopped walnuts
Mix well; your in greased loaf pan
Bake at 375° (moderate) 45 minutes.

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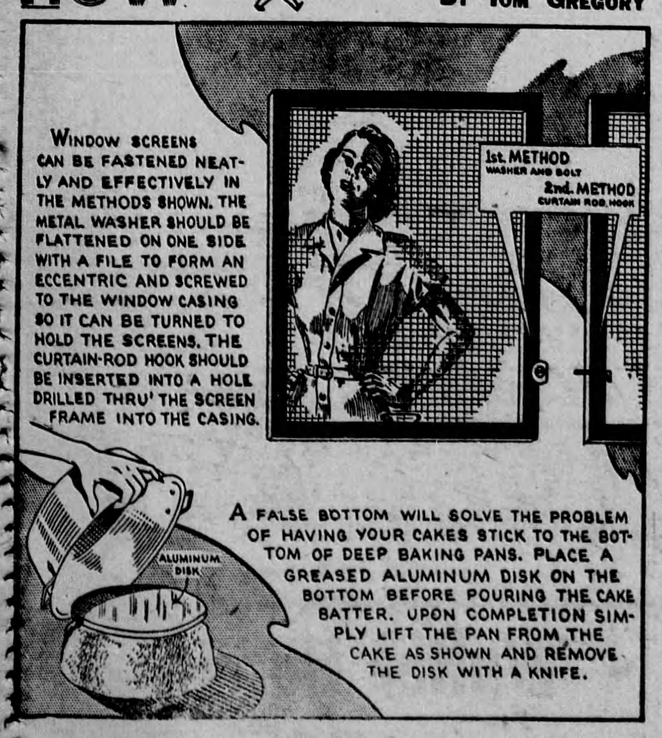
SUNDAY · JUNE 19

HOW TO FIX IT

By Tom Gregory



JITTER

By Arthur Pointer