Seeing Triple?—Sister Cloeta, first-grade teacher at St. Leo's School, thought she was seeing triple when these youngsters took their seats in her classroom. They are Donald, Jimmy and David Bartley, triplet sons of Mr. and Mrs. David Bartley. Now Sister Cloeta can tell them apart because they usually wear jackets with their names printed on them.

CHARMING CHRISTMAS ...GIFTS...

Handmade candles, well-shaped and delicately scented, make charming gifts for friends as well as conversation pieces for your own table ornamentel. It's easy to make them, with a simple outlay of materials, many of which you can find around the house.

Probably the first thing you think of is that paraffin you had left over from canning. Well, it can be used, but is too often disappointing. It takes a good shape, but it difficult to color, and the candles made from it are brittle and easily broken.

Odds and ends of used candles, on the other hand, are excellent. They can be melted together, or each color can be kept separate. Whittle them into small pieces and remove the wicks, or if you prefer just drop them into the melting can and remove the wicks later. If you do this, though, cut off the burned part of the wick first, so that it won't make your wax dirty.

Mutton Tallow and Beeswax

Mutton tallow makes excellent candles. Mix it with a little beeswax to give the candles strength and to prevent too-fast burning. To make hard tallow candles, try a batch made with 10 ounces of mutton tallow, four ounces of beeswax, two ounces of alum, and one-half ounce of camphor.

Or if you live where you can get bayberries, by all means cook up a batch of candles, Bayberry candles, with their pungent old-fashioned fragrance, so familiar to the early settlers, are especially appropriate at Christmas.

Gather beries, clean them of twigs and stems and put them into boiling water. As the wax from the berries floats to the surface, skim it off and place in a can. Melt again (over hot water) and allow impurities to settle). Pour the clear wax into yet another can and use it as you would tallow, or, if you like, mix it with tallow.

Add a Bit of Scent

Other candles can be scented with liquid incense; or a few finely crushed sage leaves tossed into the melted wax or tallow will give your finished candles a delightful fragrance when burned.

Candles may be colored by adding dry paint to the melted wax. Or you can use a drop of vegetable coloring, or even a tiny bit from a water-color tube.

Wicks are important in achieving a steady bright light. You can get brilliance and strength if you'll dip your wicks in turpentine and let them dry thoroughly before using. Small wicks are best. You can make wicks of ordinary twine, or you can buy candle wicking in the dime store. Use this single, or for a nice spiral candle double the wick and twist it, and have the wax very hot when dipping the candle.

Always melt your wax or tallow over hot water. Use any saucepan for the water, and use tin food cans for melting wax. Set the melting can into the pan of water. Or if you prefer, set a pie tin over the saucepan of water and put the melting can on that.

Once the wax is thoroughly melted, it is ready to work with. To let it get any hotter is unnecessary and, if left too long, it may flare up. It should never, never smoke.

Now Ready to Mold

Once the wax is melted, color and scent added, you are ready to make the candles. If you are making molded candles, prepare the molds before melting the wax, and set them in a clear space that leaves you room to pour without spilling.

The heavy-set candles so popular for Thanksgiving and Christmas can be made of cardboard milk cartons.

Cut the top off square. With a large needle punch a hole in the exact center of the bottom. Tie a knot in your wick and thread it up through this hole. At the top, fasten it securely around a pencil or small stick which will fit across the top of the carton and hold the wick reasonably taut. Pour the wax in all at once and when the candle is thoroughly cool, put into the refrigerator for a couple of hours. Then cut off the bottom knot, undo the wick at the top, and peel off the cardboard.

Colored red or green for Christmas, these are lovely. And you can make them any size you like by cutting the cartons down.

Candles for low table centerpieces can be molded in muffin tins. Or lovely petaled candles to float on a dish of water can be made by using individual jelly molds. Both these candles need a core. Just pour your wax, then take one of those ends of used candle from which you've cut the burned part of the wick, and set this into the center of the mold. It should be even with the surface of the melted wax. This will provide a sturdy core and make the candles burn evenly. Let cool, then set into the refrigerator until the candles loosen and can be removed easily from the molds.

For Dipped Candles

For dipped candles, tie one end of your wick to a pencil or stick. Fasten a small weight to the other end. You can tie more than one wick to a pencil if your can of melted wax is wide enough to accomodate them as they grow into candles. The can, of course, must be deep enough to make the candles the height you desire. For dipping one at a time, you can use narrow cans, such as soup cans.

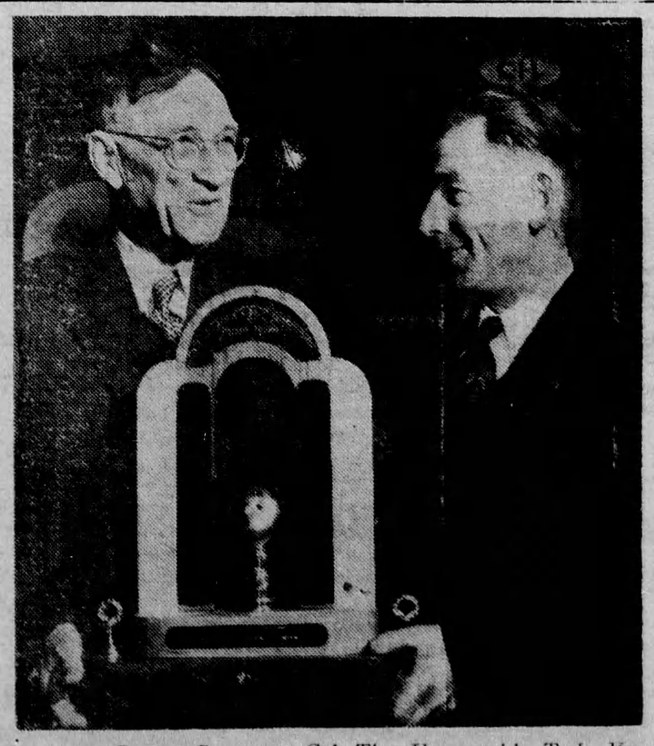
Dip the wick into melted wax briefly. If you are working in a cool room, it may not be necessary to dip the candles in cold water to harden, but otherwise, have a can of cold water ready, and dip the candles after each wax dipping. Repeat until candles are the thickness you desire. You can make these candles the same color all through, or drop your color into the wax for your final dipping, which will give the candles a colored coat.

For dripless candles, add a very small amount of stearic acid to the wax for the last dipping. When they are the right size, dipped candles can be hung from the edge of a table until thoroughly cold. Then store in the refrigerator for awhile.

Use Small Cans

There will be wax left over from the dipped candles. Put it into tomato soup or shrimp or even baby food cans. Lower into it a length of used candle, or a short hand-dipped candle. Let harden, cool in the refrigerator, and remove from the can. Using a paring knife, carve into any appropriate shape, such as snowballs, Christmas trees, snow men, little houses or churches; or for Thanksgiving, turkeys, or yellow pumpkins. With care, you can get some very good results. When the candles are carved, you can dip again for smoothness or if the color is imperfect.

If you like unusual things and enjoy having a hand in them yourself, you'll like making candles in your kitchen!



Champion Potato Grower — Col. The Honourable T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, presents handsome trophy to Frank Rick, Trout Creek, Ontario's champion potato grower. Besides trophy Rick also won $250 cash award.

"Wrist Watch" — Time hangs heavily on the hand of Laura Barone, who finds this giant, jewel-studded timepiece about all she can carry. A local watchmaker designed the big watch, fitting it with precision movement and outsize band.

Fishing Parson Forgot Funeral

Older people who remember the country doctor of half a century ago can tell strange stories of unusual characters.

When Dr. Harry Roberts, famous in London's East End, bought his first practice at Hayle, Cornwall, his nearest colleague was an oldish man who, when called at night to remote confinement, would have his horse taken out and stabled if he found things were not moving quickly, remove his boots and coat, and get into bed beside the patient to finish his night's sleep in peace, telling the nurse to wake him when anything was doing!

Doctor's Horseback Visit

A former doctor in Roberts' practice had been a very fat man who rode a heavy roadster horse. The narrow, steep staircases of many of the little stone cottages of his patients presented a problem which he would solve by riding to the front door and shouting up the stairway: "'Morning, Charles, how are you this morning? Hold out your hand." Then, with his arm full-stretch up the stairs, he'd put the end of his riding whip on the patient's wrist and pretend to feel his pulse with it. "All right. Doing nicely," he'd say. "I'll look in again in a week or so." Then off he'd go, the visit ended!

Witchcraft Wonder

There were "white witches" still in those parts, including an old man who charmed warts and cured sick cattle. Dr. Roberts' housemaid had a crop of warts on her hands that made her miserable, and he tried every remedy he could think of, unsuccessfully. At last, in desperation, she said she was going to the white witch to have them charmed away. She was quite welcome to, he told her; much good might it do her! Next morning, she hadn't one wart, nor did they ever reappear.

Among other local stories in Miss Winifred Stamp's excellent biography of Roberts, is one of a St. Ives curate who was helping to harvest a phenomenal haul of pilchards at Porthminster Bay. Suddenly at lunch, he exclaimed: "Good Lord! I've forgotten old Mrs. Baragwaneth's funeral. Two hours ago!" He tore up the streets to the cemetery, to find the mourners sitting in a row like crows on the wall with the coffin behind them on the grass.

"Bless 'ee, my dear," said the chief mourner, "you've no cause to be put out. We hadn't anything else to do; and as for the poor soul beneath, she don't know nawthen 'bout it."

Socialism Comes Mighty High

It may be too much to hope that the Socialist doctrinaires will ever be willing or able to comprehend the facts. But there are a few about the results of their nationalization schemes in Britain that should make them think.

The nationalized coal industry both in 1947 and 1948 failed to reach the modest targets set for it.

After two years in which the workers worked in "their own" pits, output per man was 30 tons less than in 1939 despite important advances in mechinization.

In 1948 absenteeism was 11.6%. In 1939 it was 6.9%.

Despite the frantic recruiting program the 1948 target was missed by 24,000 men and during the past half of 1949 the total number employed in the industry fell by 4,000.

In the first years of nationalization the railways lost £25 millions.

In three years, civil aviation lost %30 millions.

In the first year of nationalization, cable and wireless profits were £1.7 million. But in the immediately preceding period under private operation, profits had been £3.5 millions.

Since electricity was nationalized in 1948 the price has risen in many areas 15-20% and for some there is an additional substantial surcharge.

There's part of the British record. Yet the determination to push the iron and steel bill seems as firm as ever, and the Socialists cling to their gospel that government must run everything.

Surely somewhere in the Socialist party of Britain and Canada is a mind which can comprehend the folly of their course. Have they no men of sense and courage?

GOOD ADVICE

"I can't quite diagnose your case," said the doctor. "I think it must be drink."

"That's OK, doctor. I know just how you feel," said the patient. "I'll come back when you're sober."

THE FARM FRONT

For a long time, I have been wondering why so few newspapers, when the name of a little-known town or village appears in the news, fail to mention what county or district it is in, or near what big town it is located. Doing this, I believe, adds a whole lot to the interest of the readers.

* * *

This thought came to mind when I read an item recently to the effect that Frank Rick, of Trout Creek, Ont., for the second time in three years, had copped the championship potato award, given each year to the farmer who not only grows the best 'Murphies," but also has the largest yield.

* * *

"Where in heck is Trout Creek?" I said to myself—a confession of shocking ignorance, I suppose, but anyway, I didn't know, so looked it up. Well, it's in Parry Sound County and when the 1941 census was taken, it had a population of 370.

* * *

So that's that, and now back to Frank Rick, whose success as a pomme de terrier (ouch!) started all this. Besides a handsome trophy Rick won himself the nice packet of $250 in cash. The contest is judged on yield per acre, the quality, grade and marketability of the spuds, selected exhibit plus a score for cooking quality.

* * *

Rick, or at least his potatoes, passed all these hurdles with flying colors, garnering a total of 519 points. His nearest competitor was 14 points below this. Second prize of $125 went to Dave C. Hackett, of Cochrane, Ont., while third money was taken by W. A. Vail & Son, of Denfield, in Middlesex County.

* * *

Rick was particularly happy about winning again, after losing out last year. This year was an unusually dry one and therefore potato growing required more attention than usual. During July, he had no rain. "If we had only a little rain during this hot month, I am sure that I could have gotten another 100 bushels off my acre," he said. As it was, he got 836 bushels per acre, a very high average considering conditions of the past year.

* * *

Since Rick has entered into the contest, he finds that building up soil for potatoes results in better crops of grain, hay and pastures in succeeding years. As his soil is a sandy loam texture, he has therefore obtained good cash crops as well as saving his soil.

* * *

Now here's something which, while it may not exactly belong in a farm column, still might interest a whole lot of folk living on farms —and some of the "city slickers" as well.

* * *

Many home owners consider that sheet asbestos paper applied as insulation to the bright metal pipes of their furnace improves their heat carrying capacity. However, research work has proven that the heat loss is 62% greater with one thickness of 12-pound asbestos paper covering a bright tin pipe than when the same pipe is left uncovered. This test applies to bright tin warm air leader pipes through which air is flowing at relatively low velocity under a gravity system—the gravity system being by far the most common system of central heating in use in Canada today.

* * *

In order to demonstrate the inefficiency of a layer of asbestos paper as a heat insulator, tests were run in which the number of thicknesses of paper was increased until the heat loss became less than the loss through a bare, bright tin specimen. Eight thicknesses of 12-pound asbestos paper were applied before the desired result was obtained. The impractical features of such a method of insulating are, of course, evident. The conclusion drawn was that the use of a thin layer of asbestos paper glued around warm air furnace leader pipes should be abandoned.

* * *

For the average, up-to-date gravity warm air furnace installation, a practical method is merely to seal the joints of all pipes with two-inch asbestos strips in order to make the system "closed" and therefore dust-tight. The return air side, including joist panning if used, should be stripped in a like manner. It is pointed out, however, that leader pipes which might be exposed to the chilling effect of basement windows, or which are extremely long, or run through cold spaces, should be adequately insulated—a minimum of three layers of corrugated abesstos being recommended in such cases.

HALF OUR READERS WILL AGREE

"I've watched new cars roll off the assembly line," says our nearest neighbor. "It's amazing. First, they start out with little pieces, then it rolls down the line and thousands of men and a million dollars' worth of machinery put everything together. Finally, a shiny new car emerges. Then a woman driver buys it. Five minutes later—back to little pieces."

Off Tackle Slant—This turkey does some nifty broken-field running as he eludes three comely pursuers. He has just snake-hipped out of a flying tackle by Beverly Day and has left Erna Rossman, left, and Lee Austin far behind.

JITTER

By Arthur Pointer