Of Interest to Women

THE MIXING BOWL

by Anne Allan
HOME ECONOMIST

Hello Homemakers! Planning this made-to-be shared Christmas dinner for the MacKays a returned veteran and his English bride has been real fun They are the kind of pleasant, happy people one likes to be with and I could visualize your home in their home and your Christmas wishes in theirs.

The MacKays want this Christmas to be a memorable one. No matter what lies ahead, they have made up their minds that this holiday season their home will be gay with love, laughter and colored lights. What is even more important, they want the true meaning of Christmas to shine through every minute of the day Christmas means the happiness of sharing with others Like most of us, the MacKays have found that dollars do not grow on trees Starting their festive dinner will mean cutting corners somewhere on their costs We have suggested the following:

Christmas Cocktail
Roast Turkey Herb Dressing
Giblet Gravy Broiled Tangerines
Browned Potatoes Creamed Corn
Aspic Relish Salad
Sour Cream Rolls
Fruit Pudding—Plain Sauce
Coffee

HOT CHRISTMAS PUNCH

1 lb cranberries, 4 cups water, 1 tsp grated orange rind, 1 tsp grated lemon rind, ½ cup honey or 1 cup sugar, 1 cup orange juice, 1-2 cup lemon juice, 2 cups additional water

Cook cranberries with the four cups of water and grated rinds Remove from element Add remaining ingredients and serve

BROILED TANGERINES

Cut tangerines in half, remove core and loosen sections Place on broiler rack Heat thoroughly under hot top oven element Add 1-2 tsp butter and 1 tbsp brown sugar Continue broiling until brown (May be sprinkled with cinnamon)

INDIVIDUAL FRUIT PUDDING

1-2 cupful raisins, 1-2 cupful currants, ¼ cup mixed peel, 2-3 cup chopped suet, 1-2 cup light molasses, 1-2 cup brown sugar, 1-2 cup sour milk, 1 beaten egg, 1 1-2 cups sifted flour, 1 scant tsp baking soda, 1-2 tsp salt, 1 tsp cinnamon 1-2 tsp cloves, ¼ tsp nutmeg

Prepare the fruits, add the sugar, suet, molasses, egg and milk beaten together Mix and sift the dry ingredients and add, mixing thoroughly so the fruits are distributed evenly throughout Grease individual moulds or custard cups, fill two-thirds full with the pudding and steam 2 1-2 hours

CHRISTMAS CARROT PUDDING

2 eggs, 1 cup grated carrot, 1 cup grated potato, 1 cup chopped fine suet, 1-2 cup brown sugar, 1 cup Sultana raisins, 1 cup seeded raisins, or 1-2 cup raisins and 1-2 cup currants, ½ cup mixed peel, 1-2 tsp nutmeg, 1-2 tsp allspice, 1 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp salt, 1 cup flour

Beat eggs slightly Add sugar, suet, grated vegetabels, peel and fruit Sift flour with baking powder, salt and spices Mix together. Fill a well-greased bowl two thirds full and steam 3 hours Reheat by steaming 1 hour before serving time

OLD-FASHIONED PUDDING SAUCE

1-2 cup sugar, 2 tbsps flour 1-8 tsp salt, 1 cup hot water, 1 tbsp mild flavored fat, 1 egg yolk 1 tsp vanilla

Combine sugar, flour, salt and water Bring to boiling point Stir in fat Add to beaten egg yolk return to heat and cook, stirring for 2 mins Add vanilla.

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

1-2 cup baking fat, 1-2 cup peanut butter, 1-2 cup granulated sugar, 1-2 cup brown sugar, 1¼ cups sifted flour, 1-2 tsp baking powder, ½ tsp soda, ¼ tps salt, 1 beaten egg

Cream baking fat and peanut butter together Add sugars gradually and cream thoroughly Beat in egg Sift flour, baking powder, soda and salt together and add to the creamed mixture. Shape into rolls 2 inches in diameter. Roll in wax paper and chill in electric refregerator Slice 1-8 inch thick. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 375 degs. for 15 mins. Yield: 4 doz cookies.

TAKE A TIP

Plan holiday meals well in advance and make the preparations elastic enough to take care of unexpected guests. A buffet supper on Christmas Eve and a fireside tea on Christmas night are easy to prepare and can be stretched to accommodate almost any number of friends who may drop in. Many jobs such as the following can be done the week preceding Christmas with profit to yourself.

1. Plum Puddings, Mincemeat and Fruit Cakes can be made beforehand and stored.

2. Make a list of all the staples required and order them at the same time as you order the fowl

3. Cranberry Jelly, Cookies, Salad Dressings, Sauces and Pastes can all be made and stored without suffering in quality

4. Salad greens should be washed, cleaned and stored in your refrigerator all ready for the salads and garnishing

JOHN A. MARSH

Latterly special assistant to the Minister, Department of Munitions and Supply has been appointed Commissioner of the Ontario Division, Canadian Red Cross

Chronicles of . . Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Acton Free Press by GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

Dear friends and patient readers everywhere: You are busy and I am busy, but I think we can just take time out for a few minutes to exchange Christmas greetings, don't you? Naturally I want to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and since this is a season of goodwill I am going to take it for granted that is also your wish for us at Ginger Farm Am I right?

"A Happy Christmas!" As I wrote the words I wondered in my own mind what we generally consider constitutes a happy Christmas A lot depends upon one's sense of values, doesn't it? Fundamentally, the conditions are very simple

Tradition makes us expect there will be a certain amount of giving and getting, but in that I often feel we have lost sight of the original idea behind this exchange of gifts. We seem to be leaning towards a tendency to spend more and more each year on the presents we buy for our friends I am afraid we too often forget that gifts are meant as an expression of our thought for one another not as a blatant display of spending power Haven't we all had the experience some time or other of being cheered and touched by a simple and inexpensive present from an unexpected quarter? If that be so, then isn't it safe to assume that we also can give pleasure in the same way? We can no more buy a happy Christmas by extravagant giving than we can buy our way into the Kingdom of Heaven Happiness at Christmas or at any other time, for that matter, is reflected in our own hearts in proportion to our will to bring happiness to the lives of others

And what about Christmas fare does it contribute towards our enjoyment? At the risk of being thought slightly gluttonous I would say "yes" particularly with so many boys back from overseas Ask these boys and you will soon find that Christmas dinner according to their own family tradition has to them, become a symbol Don't try to change it don't think to yourself, "I won't bother making puddings this year" or cakes, or whatever it is that has been your custom If you do slip up, you take something away from Christmas as your family remembers it No need to be etravagant remember the starving millions in Europe but use your imagination your ingenuity and make something that looks like the real thing

And a tree! What is home without your own personal Christmas tree? Yes, it is quite a bother, I know, but don't let the old custom die Let your tree be big or small, as you wish, but make it gay and sparkling Bring out the gaudy baubles, the tinsel, the star and the Christmas angel even though the one it was your delight to trim the tree for in years gone by is no longer here to share it with you You naturally feel you no longer have the heart for such pretense. But I urge you, have a tree anyway. Can't you feel that "he" would wish it and who can say what happiness your tree might bring to some other lonely soul

And then let us remember the children children everywhere Children and Christmas belong together If you have little ones in your own home then you are to be envied Make them happy it takes so little Don't spoil them with extravagant giving but make it their day in other ways Join in their fun; share their laughter make this a Christmas for them to remember And if there are no children in your home there are plenty outside of it

It may be a queer notion on my part but I always have a feeling that there can be little happiness in our own hearts unless we have contributed in some way towards the happiness of at least one little boy or girl at Christmastime other than those of our own family.

Last but not least we should surely remember the reason for which Christmas came into being "For unto us a child is born." Without that thought to guide us Christmas is meaningless and void. Remember it, and Christmas giving, Christmas fare, thought for the children, our own little personal problems, our joys and our sorrows, fall into their right perspective and we can say in all sincerity, "A Happy Christmas to You All."

French Scents Hard to Find

War Chief Reason for Lack of Perfumes in Christmas Parcels

NEW YORK (CP) Santa's bag may be chock full of gifts but if milady is expected a whiff of French perfume to warm her heart and perhaps her male admirers she's going to be disappointed

There should be plenty of American perfume around and some French perfumes made by American manufacturers who were well stocked in essential oils But the chances are very slim for any good French perfumes in the next year or two say some of the perfume industry's representatives after a survey of the perfume situation abroad

There are hitches in practically every stage of production, beginning with the cultivation of flowers, says Benson Stoffer, president of Corday, blenders and importers

He found that Frenchmen have been more concerned with the necessity of cultivating vegetables rather than flowers during the past four years And, now that the farmers are faced with the task of putting the soil back into shape they are handicapped by a lack of machinery, fertilizer and labor.

The weather, too, thwarted their efforts this year Roses are yielding only about half the normal perfume crop, orange blossom about two-thirds and jasmine absolute will amount to about half the pre-war supply at about 10 times the cost.

Industry Handicapped

A lack of fats, solvents and coal further handicaps the process of obtaining oil from the flowers, he says, and in the case of jasmine absolute, gasoline was used as a slovent in the absence of petroleum ether, and it promptly affected the product

The jasmine plantations were about 25 years old and at their life's end, found H. L. Van Ameringen of the Toilet Goods Association He says

"Though some new jasmine plantations were started recently, unusually hot and dry weather makes it difficult to predict the outcome of the crop"

He found that six years of war occupation and liberation helped disorganize French labor since more than three million men between 18 and 45 were prisoners of war or taken to Germany for slave labor.

The cost of living skyrocketed because of an insufficient official ration of food, fuel and clothing and the fact that large quantities of everything were taken either for the army of occupation or for shipment to Germany.

Transportation difficulties hamper what little industry might be maintained. He says

"A truck shortage has created a complete absence of violet leaves absolute though they are obtainable at a distance of only about 150 kilometres from Grasse. Lavender oil crops are small because lack of shoes makes picking of lavender in the mountains an undesirable job. And, aromatic chemical production is at a standstill due to lack of coal and raw materials"

RADIO PILLOW

WINNIPEG (CP) — The latest innovation for the comfort of wounded soldiers at Deer Park Lodge military hospital is a "radio pillow"—a small earphone enclosed in a pillow and connected to a standard radio set. The volume is decreased so as to be inaudible to anyone but the patient.

NEW FRENCH WEEKLY

VANCOUVER (CP) — La Colombie, British Columbia's first and only French language newspaper, will make its appearance here soon. Published by George Berube, its aim will be to promote better spirit of co-operation between English - speaking and French-speaking people in the province.

ARGUING OVER THE CAR

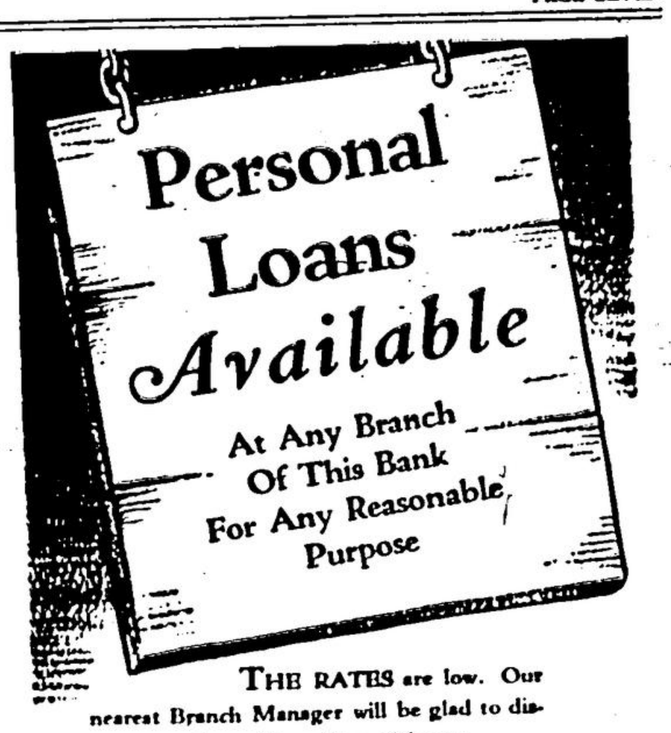
In pre-war days there were many arguments in families over the use of the family automobile. Young people would ask to have the car for their dates and doings, which sometimes collided with the desire for their own purposes. Some youngsters felt that the use of the car was a necessity in their social life, and that they did not get their fair share of it

Gasoline restrictions may have abated those arguments in wartime to a large extent. As conditions affecting automobiles become more normal, many young people will be again asking for the car for this or that purpose.

The ability to provide a car to take their chums around is a social asset to a young person The young people who drive with the best judgment and who are the most careful to obey all regulations, will encourage their parents to let them take the car more frequently

BUNGALOWS FROM SCRAP

LONDON, Eng Five great United Kingdom bomber factories are now turning out the world's finest prefabricated houses This was revealed recently by Mr Arthur Woodburn, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Aircraft Production. Mr Woodburn, who was opening the first aluminum house erected in Blackpool, England, said Beating bombers into bungalows is the modern version of turning swords into ploughshares." Fifty thousand bungalows will be produced in the United Kingdom in the next year or two from a thousand tons of aluminum scrap recovered from obsolete aircraft



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WE SELL
CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Perhaps you, too, have your shopping problems these days. Perhaps you have encountered short supply of many of the articles you planned on giving as Christmas gifts.

Well! Here's a Tip

Last year we couldn't take any more new subscribers. We were short on our paper quota. There were many copies of the home town paper going to the boys overseas. We just couldn't guarantee to serve any more new subscribers. But this year it's different. Many of the boys are back home. Sometimes we presume the family and the boys are all reading the same copy and we can look after some more new readers.

We Suggest . .

That you solve some of your gift problems by sending friends a year's subscription to the home town paper - The Acton Free Press.

It's a gift that lasts 52 weeks and we send a gift card notifying the recipient of your thoughtfulness. There will be the home town news and pictures and many interesting items in each of the weeks of 1946. We start the gift subscription before Christmas and continue until the end of December 1946. It's a $2.00 gift and $2.50 to United States friends. There are no extra taxes or postage.

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