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**THE MIXING BOWL**  
 BY ANNIE ALLAN  
 HOME ECONOMIST

Hello Homemakers! The story of the first Christmas is familiar to us all: of the Three Wise Men who came from the East with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to worship the Christ Child. Legends have sprung up in different regions concerning the Wise Men but little is actually known about them beyond the brief story in the second chapter of St. Matthew. However we do know they belonged to the "Magi" sect of priests who were noted for their enchantments, knowledge of astrology and wisdom. From the name of this sect comes our modern word "magic" for the art of enchantment.

At this season we wish we possessed more magic art in the selection of Christmas gifts to please our relatives and friends.

**TAKE A TIP**

- 1 Paper doilies are numerous, attractive and economical. Tray covers, place mats, serviettes, wall bracket towels, doilies, dish cloths, etc.
- 2 Colored metal pieces in tumblers, trays, coasters, also pens and pens are stainproof and pretty.
- 3 The market abounds with all kinds of new little gadgets in metal or plastic salad servers, fashioned like acorns; different colored dusters in plastic holders for the assorted polishes you use, variously sized bowl covers in assorted colours.
- 4 Something new in kitchen equipment is always acceptable: cake tins with depressions and ring hands, stainless steel spoons and spatulas on a hanging bar, a can opener which lifts and holds up the lid, a fruit jar opener, an electric clock, a kitchen fan, a box of stainless steel preparation knives.

ATTRACTIVE serving dishes are a delight to any homemaker. This year, the novel salts and peppers are favoured, such as the goose and the golden egg, bride and groom, blossoms, fruit, etc. Aluminum book ends, water pitchers, trays, coffee makers, glass ware, especially flower vases, tumblers and centre pieces.

**THE QUESTION BOX**  
 Mrs. F. M.: Would like to know if it is necessary to chill cookie dough?

**Answer:** If cookie dough is mixed and chilled for a few hours it will be more easily handled when rolling or you may slice it.

Mrs. G. S. asks: Why are waffles soft and yet dark brown in colour?

**Answer:** Too much fat may cause them to be soft and insufficient egg or too much liquid makes them thin. If you separate the eggs and fold in beaten whites, before batter is poured on the iron, the waffles will be more crisp and thick.

Mrs. N. B. asks: Why are some apple pie fillings so brown, others such a clear colour?

**Answer:** Powdered spice turns apples brown while a little lemon juice keeps apple flavour and colour.

Mrs. T. W. asks for the following recipe:

**SHORTBREAD**

- 1/2 cup mild-flavoured fat
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 cups pastry flour

Soften fat and butter slightly but do not allow to become oily. Stir in sugar, egg yolk, and salt, using a wooden spoon. Mix in flour adding a little at a time until mixture is too stiff to work with a spoon. Turn on to a floured board and knead lightly, working in rest of flour as needed until surface of the dough begins to crack. Roll about 1/8 inch thick and cut with a small cookie cutter. Bake in a moderately slow oven (325 degrees) about twenty minutes or until delicate brown. Makes about 4 dozen.

There are 125 tree species in Canada, of which 33 are conifer, or softwoods.

**Van Wyck Cleaners**  
 Phone 272

**Chronicles of... Ginger Farm**

Written Specially for The Acton Free Press  
 GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

I am going to ask you a question. It is this: Do you as an Institute or Club worker, sufficiently appreciate those hard-working members of the various organizations to which you belong? If some of those same skillful workers who now do so much for your club should move away, have you any idea who could carry on the work that, up to the present, has been so willingly left to their capable brains and fingers? Could you do it?

Not only that, but does your organization as a whole ever make a point of showing appreciation for the capable help that has been given from one year's end to another?

All persons are not good at the same things, thus we have some who excel at baking, others at knitting and needlework, some in an organizing capacity, and still others at music or handicraft.

What ever their talent the organization may not have need of it all the time but when the necessity arises for someone to take charge of a specialized job, what a comfort it is to know you have just the right person to handle it. Only we are rather inclined to take such help for granted, don't you think?

This fact was brought home to one Institute branch just recently when a lovely quilt top and lining was given to the Branch to be quilted and sold—the proceeds to go to the Branch. So here was a quilt top, beautifully made, but it had yet to be marked for quilting.

It was some years since this particular branch had done any work on a quilt—that is, one requiring a definite pattern and fine quilting. In the meantime the two artistic members who had always so obligingly done the marking job on any special quilts had moved away. Immediately the question arose: "Who will mark the quilt?"

A committee was appointed for the job, and that committee soon knew only too well, if it didn't before, just how much time and work had gone into all the previous quilt markings that had been done so willingly for the Branch by the two members who were now too far away to give any assistance.

The committee finally got the quilt marked and into the frames but would the other members who came to quilt and followed the intricate pattern that had been designed for them, would they realize the all that marking that quilt involved? No doubt it would be taken for granted as it generally is. Very few of us realize the detail of any job until we have it to do ourselves. Then how can such a situation be avoided?

Well, here is a suggestion insofar as quilts are concerned. Most W. I. branches put on demonstrations of one kind or another during the year—then why not a demonstration on quilt marking? In nearly every district there can be found artistic persons who are known to be good at this very exacting job, and even though they may not be members of the W. I., I am sure any one of them could be persuaded to give a demonstration. Talented people are like that, nearly always generous in trying to pass on a little of their specialized skill to others less fortunate. Perhaps by a demonstration of that kind, other members might be found to have just such a talent, hitherto lying dormant and unsuspected. In any case all members would at least find out for themselves the work entailed in marking a quilt and thus have a better appreciation of the work done by others.

What applies to quilts is, true of other club activities. A refreshment convenor might outline her work in that direction, telling her fellow members how she arranges afternoon tea for each meeting and what preparations are made for a banquet.

A programme convenor could give a good outline of the work necessary to arrange programmes for the year, and the finance convenor might give her end of the story. Not the final result—everyone eventually knows that—but the spare work that is necessary before any result can be achieved. In other words an education in committee activities should help a lot to replace members whose help is no longer available. And it would certainly lead to a much better appreciation of the work done by our leaders, and convenors.

Horse racing, according to ancient drawings, is at least 3,000 years old.

**People Favor Cheques When Paying Bills**

Cash Method Wastes Time and is Risky

Canadians now complete more business transactions by cheque than by cash. The reason is that paying by cash usually involves making a tiresome round of stores and offices, whereas writing and mailing cheques does the same job quickly and easily.

Another advantage is that carrying a cheque-book is much safer than keeping large sums of cash in pocket or purse. Lost cash can bring trouble ranging from irritation to tragedy. But a lost cheque-book costs nothing to replace and does not endanger the owner's savings.

Should a filled-in cheque be mislaid, a prompt call to the bank will stop payment of it. Furthermore, a cashed cheque automatically becomes a receipt, thus giving the payer extra protection.

This modern way of paying bills is available to everyone at the Bank of Montreal. William Clayton, branch manager at Acton, advises that the B. of M. welcome mail is out for all who wish to open accounts for this purpose.

Natives of the West Indies, who regularly chew sugar cane, are said to have better teeth on the whole than Canadians.

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**Anglers and Hunters Association**  
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- 22 Calibre rifle, 50 yards

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